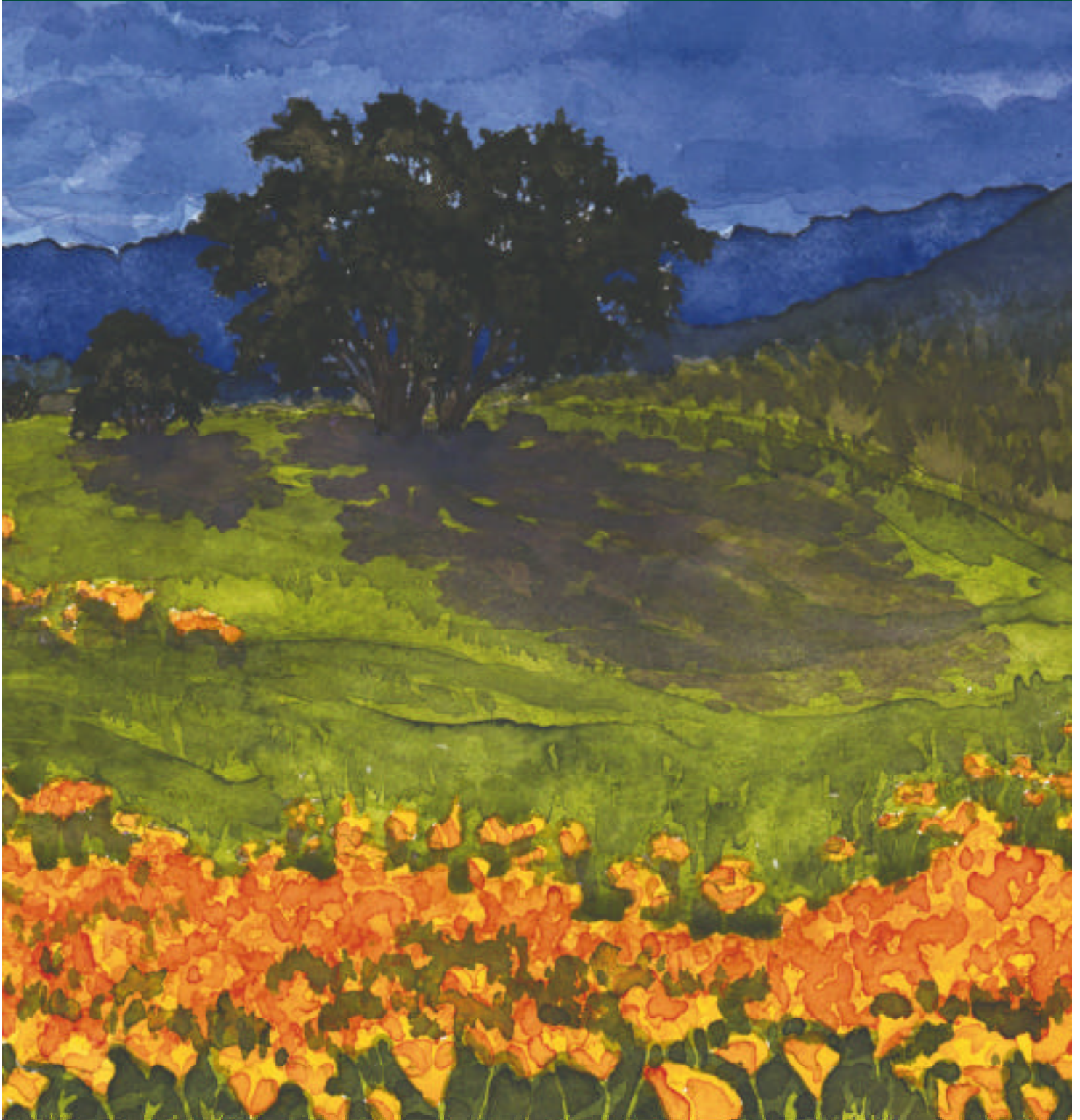


Draft

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area ~ California

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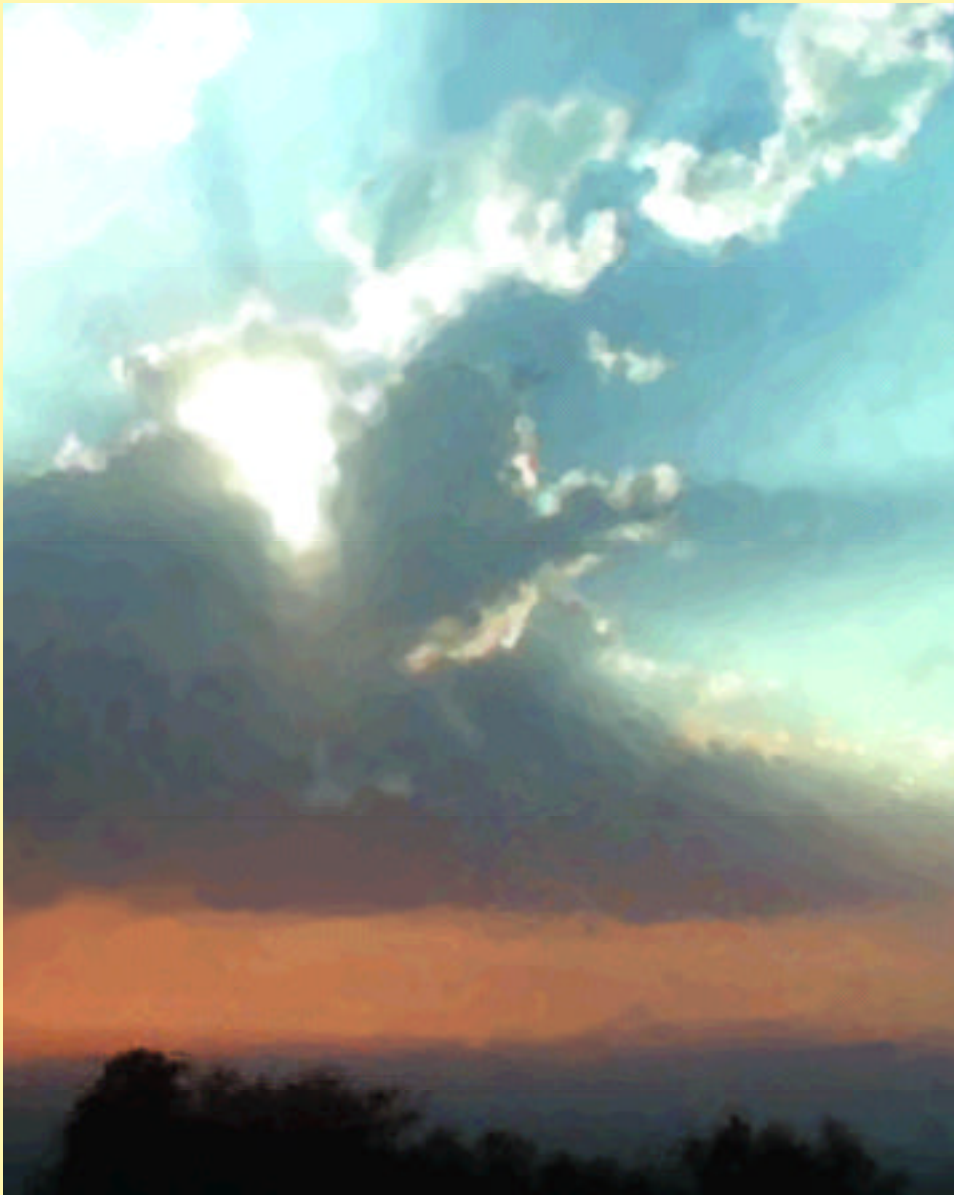
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S u m m a r y



The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a cooperative effort by the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as well as private land owners, and city and county governments.



S U M M A R Y

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) is one of the world's largest urban recreation areas. The Mediterranean-type ecosystem of this open space preserve northwest of Los Angeles offers visitors a multitude of natural, cultural and recreational experiences. Its more than 150,000 acres of mountains, valleys and coastline are surrounded by a megalopolis of 17 million people, yet 90 percent of the land is free of development.

The SMMNRA is home to significant archeological and cultural sites and provides a haven for more than 450 animal species. Fifty threatened or endangered plants and animals find protection here. At least 1,000 archeological sites are located within the recreation area boundaries, and more than 73 historic sites are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The U.S. Congress created the SMMNRA in 1978 and granted the National Park Service the authority to promote a level of shared management for the park. The National Park Service, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy jointly administer the public parklands within the SMMNRA, and are referred to as the administering agencies in this document.

When the recreation area was established in 1978, the state of California was the largest public landowner, with over 28,000 acres of land in four major parks. Federal land acquisition began in 1980 with an authorization of \$155 million.

The area's first *General Management Plan* (GMP) was completed in 1982. In the last two years these agencies have joined together to assess the 1982 GMP and review the mission and purpose of the recreation area. While many of the issues and goals for the SMMNRA remain the same, the magnitude of use has changed dramatically and environmental impacts must be examined.

The three agencies have drafted a new general management plan and environmental impact statement document that offers five alternative approaches to manage the recreation area throughout the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives could not have been developed

▲ View of
Santa Monica
Mountains
(NPS photo).



without a comprehensive scoping and public involvement process. Each alternative has been examined for its potential impact on the environment, and the environmental consequences are reviewed in the environmental consequences and mitigation measures chapter.

The five suggested management alternatives include the no action alternative, the preferred alternative, the preservation alternative, the education alternative and the recreation alternative. The preferred alternative combines features of each. The development of these alternatives was based on public response to newsletters, public meetings and suggestions from the staff of the three administering agencies. Please see Table 8, Summary of Alternatives, at the end of the Alternatives chapter for alternative comparisons.

Each alternative presents conceptual visions for the recreation area in several levels of management areas: low intensity areas, moderate intensity areas, and high intensity areas. Please refer to page __ for definitions of intensities. Within each alternative the management areas of community landscapes and scenic corridors are also addressed. The five management areas outline the existing and desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time in specific areas.

The development of specific facilities is also discussed at a conceptual level. It is not known at this time whether improvements such as modifications to historic structures or other buildings, site plans for new facilities, location and layout of parking improvements, etc, would occur. For that reason, the analysis of the environmental consequences for each of the five alternatives must be quite general. Many of the action items, such as facility development presented in the general management plan, would require *additional* environmental analysis, in the form of environmental assessments or environmental

impact statements, prior to implementation. Many items would also require additional compliance with federal biological and cultural resources laws and regulations.

Due to the general nature of the analysis presented herein, the types of environmental impacts for each of the five alternatives is fairly similar, as shown on Table 9, Summary of Environmental Consequences, at the end of the Alternatives chapter. Impacts result from 1) facility development, 2) proportion of types of management areas, 3) visitor usage, and 4) park maintenance. These activities are included within each alternative. The difference between the alternatives lies with the number of facility developments and intensity and location of visitor usage related to sensitive resources and required level of park maintenance activities. Therefore, the impacts and mitigation measures are similar, but the frequency and intensity of the impacts varies with each alternative.

Impacts on air quality, noise, growth, population, housing, employment and public services, utilities and energy are not expected with any of the alternatives and no mitigation measures would be required. Varying levels of impacts on soil erosion, water quality, biological, paleontological and cultural resources would occur with all alternatives. Implementation of the mitigation measures and further analysis of development proposals when sufficient detail is available would reduce impacts to less than significant levels. While the draft GMP/EIS designates management areas that differ from land uses designated for areas within the park in local general plans and coastal programs, the draft GMP/EIS has no authority over local land use decisions. Further, GMP/EIS designations would generally result in a beneficial impact on land use by reducing the intensity of use from commercial, industrial, residential and other uses to open space and visitor-serving facilities.



OVERVIEW OF WHY SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IS EXCEPTIONAL

A NUMBER OF FACTORS set Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) apart. For one, it is the nation's largest urban recreation area. Comprising more than 150,000 acres, it is over twice the size of the second largest national recreation area, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Santa Monica Mountains is distinguished from many other national parks/recreation areas in that it is a single expanse of land rather than a series of pocket parks. This is important because large blocks of land sustain the habitat or living space required by native wild plants and animals. The area is also the National Park Service's best mainland example of the Mediterranean Biome (land type), one of the smallest biomes found on the face of the earth, with only 18 percent left undisturbed. An endangered collection of plants and animals is found here.

Another distinguishing factor is that the city of Los Angeles is possibly the only city in the world divided by a mountain range or national recreation area and one of a few cities that has a national recreation area so readily accessible to so many people – 15.6 million.

The significance of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has been frequently overlooked or misunderstood but that needs to change. The purpose of this general management plan is to plot a course into the future; one that ensures the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is preserved for all people, for all time.

The no action alternative would result in the continuation of existing conditions. The education alternative is more intense than the no action alternative, but would focus on educational facilities and management activities. The recreational alternative would increase high intensity use areas and intensify visitor usage and park maintenance activities.

Under the preservation alternative the priority is the preservation of natural and cultural resources rather than visitor usage. This combination would result in the highest level of environmental protection within the SMMNRA of any of the alternatives. However, the mission statement of the SMMNRA is not only to preserve natural and cultural resources, but also to “offer compatible recreation and education



programs accessible to a diverse public.”

The preservation alternative does not fully meet the goals and objectives of the SMMNRA.

The preferred alternative is an environmentally superior alternative that also best meets the goals and objectives of the SMMNRA. It would designate 80 percent of the total acreage for preservation. Fifteen percent would be designated as moderate intensity use areas and 5 percent would be designated as high intensity use areas. However, the highest number of facilities would be developed within the high intensity use areas.

Purpose and Need



Fifteen years of extraordinary population growth, a greater knowledge of the area's resources, and evolving land use patterns have created a need for a new general management plan to protect the resources of the SMMNRA.



PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE GMP/EIS

The purpose of this draft general management plan (GMP) is to provide an updated framework for the collective management of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). Three park agencies serve as the recreation area's principal administrators: the National Park Service (NPS), California State Parks (CSP), and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC). Accompanying the plan is an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess its potential environmental consequences, as required by law.

The administration of the SMMNRA is an experiment in cooperative park management. In 1978, Congress directed the National Park Service to serve as the lead coordinating agency for the cooperative administration of this complex national recreation area. This cooperative effort was formalized in a 2000 Agreement, signed by the National Park Service, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Passage of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 directed the National Park Service to prepare and revise general management plans for the preservation and use of each unit of the national park system. The act stipulated that a plan should be prepared every 15 to 20 years. The last general management plan for the SMMNRA was released in 1982. Fifteen years of additional population growth, a greater knowledge of the area's resources, and evolving land use patterns have created a need for a new general management plan to protect the resources of the SMMNRA while addressing new obstacles and opportunities. The difficulty of managing the recreation area's special resources within an urban setting, especially considering the diversity of its sites and uses, magnifies the need for a new vision for the future. It is crucial to anticipate more visitations by the region's disproportionately large and diverse population, and to consider different types of recreational uses.

▲ View of Malibu
Canyon Road
(NPS photo).





Ridgeline development in the Santa Monica Mountains (NPS photo).

This draft GMP/EIS, therefore, embodies a commitment to the people of Los Angeles and the Nation that a coordinated system of management would be redefined and updated to continue the preservation and promotion of the unique variety of land uses in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. This document fulfills Congressional intent for SMMNRA that:

"The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the recreation area in a manner which will preserve and enhance its scenic, natural and historic setting and its public health value as an air shed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public."

This document proposes five alternative plans that would achieve these actions. Following the required federal oversight, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and public participation processes to determine the appropriate actions, one alternative plan is ultimately selected for further development and implementation.

All reasonable efforts are made within this proposal to make facilities, programs and services of the SMMNRA accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. To achieve this, the National Park Service, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy would continue to develop strategies to ensure the continued preservation and enhancement of the recreation area's scenic, natural and

historic setting. The strategies would ensure that all new and rehabilitated buildings, facilities and programs, including those offered by concessionaires and interpreters, would be designed and implemented in conformance with applicable rules, regulations and standards.

Planning Process

Planning provides an opportunity to create a new vision and to define a park's role in relation to its national, historic and communal settings. The planning process is designed to provide decision-makers with adequate information about resources, impacts and costs. Analyzing the SMMNRA in relation to its surrounding natural, historic, and communal setting, as well as future challenges, helps park managers and staff understand how the park could interrelate with neighbors and others in systems that are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable. Decisions made within this planning context are more likely to be successful over time and promote more efficient use of public funds.

The planning process begins by defining the mission statement and purpose of the park, including which goals would fulfill that mission, and descriptions of resource conditions, visitor uses and management actions to best achieve those goals. After goals are established, the treatment and use of park resources is considered, based on scientific, technical and scholarly analyses that employ current scientific research as well as applied and accepted professional practices in park management. The planning analysis is tiered, focusing first on the park as a whole (on a global, national and regional context), environmental impacts to the park, and then on site-specific details. Management alternatives are generated based on the goals

and analyses. The alternatives are then scrutinized with respect to their consistency with the park purpose and mission, the impact on park resources, the quality of the visitor experience, the short and long term costs, and environmental consequences that extend beyond park boundaries. The planning process for SMMNRA is illustrated on Figure 1.

A "core" planning team was assembled in the spring of 1997. It was comprised of the superintendent, deputy superintendent, and chief of resource planning from the National Park Service, the district superintendent and sector superintendent from the Angeles District of the California State Parks, the director of their Southern Service Center, and the executive director and chief of planning of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This group met separately and together with the staffs of their agencies to gather input from those who work in the SMMNRA on a daily basis. The "core" team again met in August of 1997 and April 1998 with representatives from over 70 state, federal and local agencies and municipalities for ideas on the future of the SMMNRA.

Throughout the planning process, the SMMNRA has requested input from the public at critical stages. Public participation in planning ensures that the SMMNRA fully understands and considers the public's interests in the park as part of their national heritage, cultural traditions, and community surroundings. The GMP/EIS effort began in 1997 when the planning team met to familiarize team members from outside the park with the resources, discuss issues and the scope of the plan, and create the SMMNRA mission statement. In August 1997, a meeting was held with more than 70 public agencies associated with land management within the SMMNRA boundary, to discuss the issues and future of the park. In early September 1997, the public was



formally notified of the planning effort and introduced to the planning process through publication of *Newsletter One*. Subsequent newsletters kept the public informed of progress. Two additional newsletters and two series of five public meetings each were conducted in preparation of this plan. The public participation process is detailed later in the “Consultation and Coordination with Others” section of this document.

Relationship to Other Planning Documents

The general management plan seeks to define *why* a park was established and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time to conserve that original purpose. The plan considers various approaches to park use, management and development, some of which may represent competing interests for the same resource base. Ultimately, the GMP/EIS serves to define a series of *desired outcomes or conditions*. The plan covers a broad area, a wide range of programs and concerns, addresses an array of resources, and must, therefore, function at a general level.

The more specific actions required to attain the goals and outcomes defined in the draft GMP/EIS are accomplished through *implementation plans*. These plans apply to specific program areas, projects or operational and development strategies for specific areas of the park. Because planning is an ongoing and continuous process, the GMP/EIS must be viewed as a dynamic document. A number of plans already completed would remain in effect, and this draft GMP/EIS reflects those still deemed to be useful. Future implementation plans would use the goals and conditions defined in this draft GMP/EIS as their starting point. Implementation plans for actions with potential to affect the environment would require formal analysis of alternatives in compliance with the National Environmental

Policy Act and related legislation, including the National Historic Preservation Act.

Other Planning Documents Still Current

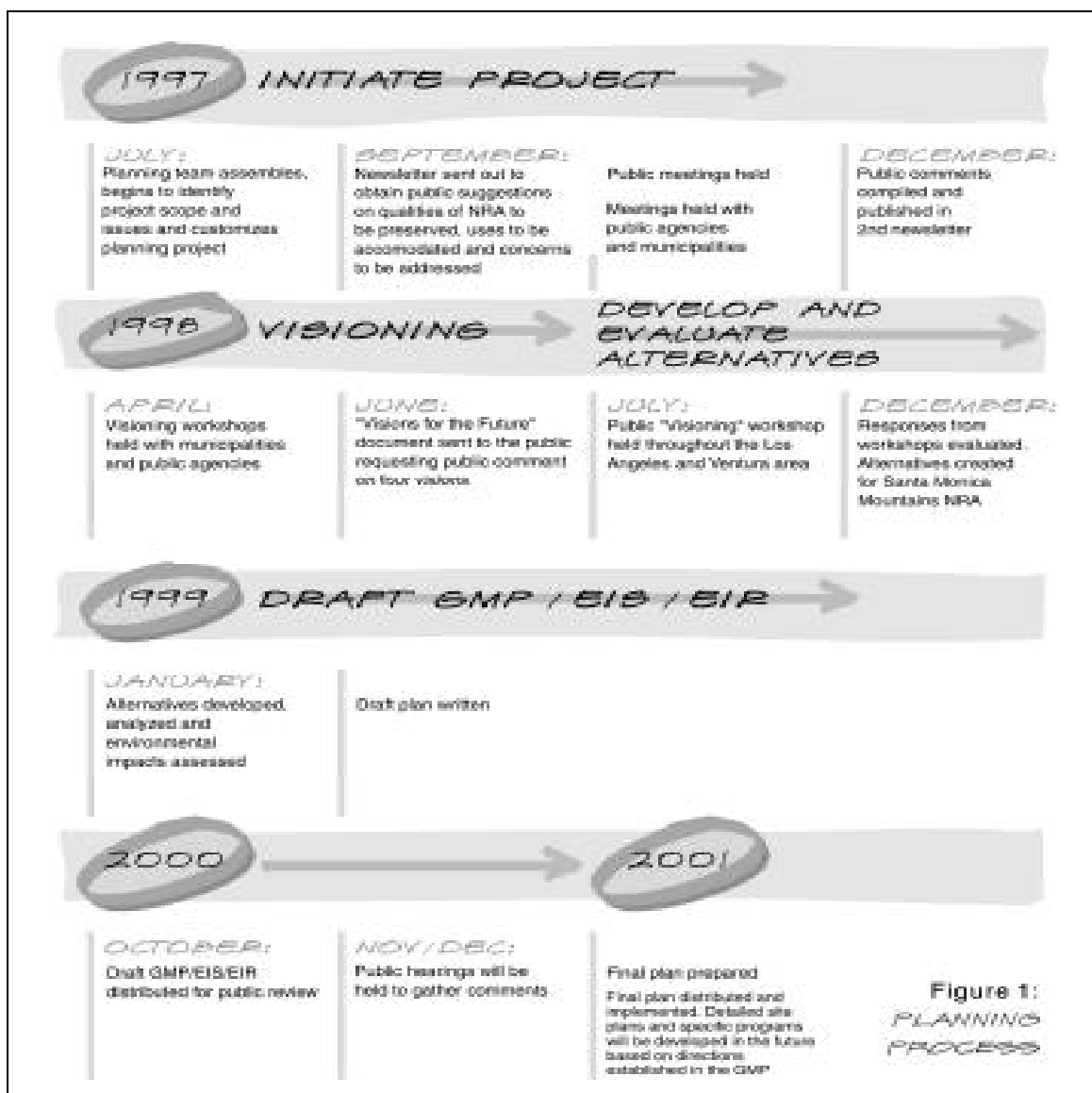
Table 3 contains a list of specific plans developed by NPS to date and can be found in the Appendix. Plans determined to still be current are indicated in that table. Among the implementation plans current and particularly useful in the development of this draft GMP/EIS are: SMMNRA *Land Protection Plan* (NPS), *Resource Management Plan* (NPS), *Water Resources Management Plan* (NPS), *Business Plan* (NPS), *Development Concept Plans* (NPS), *Museum Management Plan* (NPS), and California State Parks *General Plans*.

Implementation of the GMP/EIS

While the SMMNRA general management plan and accompanying environmental impact statement represent the ultimate vision of the National Park Service, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the actions called for in this joint plan would be accomplished over time. Budget restrictions, requirements for additional data, legal compliance and/or competing SMMNRA priorities prevent immediate implementation of many actions. The GMP/EIS is not an implementation plan but a framework for management and implementation plans. Major or costly actions could be implemented 10 or more years following the finalization of the document.

In the implementation of this GMP/EIS, the NPS, CSP and SMMC have limited authority over privately held lands, but would attempt to guide the decisions of other public agencies toward consistency with the joint plan, whenever possible. Implementation of the SMMNRA GMP/EIS is outlined below.

*Purpose and Need
Implementation of the GMP/EIS*



SMMNRA Planning Process.

► **NPS-Owned Lands**

The NPS would implement actions set forth in the GMP/EIS on NPS-owned lands, as funding becomes available for improvements and land acquisition.

Improvements to specific facilities on NPS-owned lands, and/or acquisition of additional lands, would be completed according to specific implementation plans. Over time, some of these plans may be

revised. A number of specific plans already exist. They would be revised for consistency with the draft GMP/EIS as necessary. When possible, future implementation plans would be jointly developed to reflect the cooperative interests and management of the SMMNRA. A trail management plan for the park agencies of the Santa Monica Mountains would be among the first plans developed on this broader scale of resource and public interest.



► **California State Parks**

The CSP intends to utilize the GMP/EIS in relation to their own general planning process in the following ways:

The joint GMP/EIS would be used, in effect, as an advisory document. It would not replace state park general plans (existing and future plans, as well as associated amendments). Individual CSP general plans would continue to be viable and primary vehicles for the long-range planning of individual units in the Santa Monica Mountains, as specified in the Public Resources Code. The CSP would keep a general consistency between the GMP/EIS and its general plans. The goals and concepts set forth in the draft GMP/EIS would be used to plan and manage areas on behalf of the existing eight state park units included in the SMMNRA, as well as any future units in this area.

Table 4 contains a list of planning efforts CSP is engaged in and can be found in the Appendix.

► **Opportunities for Interagency Cooperative Relationships**

The enabling legislation for the SMMNRA envisioned a cooperative effort between the state, local governments, and the NPS to preserve the “significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, natural, archeological and public health benefits provided by the Santa Monica Mountains and the adjacent coastline.” More than 65 governmental agencies have some type of jurisdiction within the SMMNRA boundary. Cooperative relationships in the Santa Monica Mountains are both beneficial and a simple necessity. No single agency or governmental body currently or ever would, control the land base. Individually, the lands owned and managed by the separate agencies are too small, too interdependent and too vulnerable to sustain their biological integrity and absorb the impacts of natural processes such as fires

and landslides or unnatural processes such as development. But as inter-linked resources, each supports the existence of others and provides for a natural system that can protect rare species and maintain an uninterrupted rugged landscape with continuous and diverse recreational opportunities to challenge the most experienced park visitor. The possibilities for cooperation are many and, clearly, available to accomplish every goal contained within the GMP/EIS. The administering agencies of the SMMNRA can provide input to the development of these plans by providing comments during public review periods and participating on task forces and environmental review committees. Please refer to Table 2, General Agreements with Other Agencies in the Appendix.

Relationships among SMMNRA-associated agencies are positive with frequent opportunities for cooperation. These are not limited to the NPS, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors, for example, probably serves more recreation area visitors on coastal beaches than do the other SMMNRA agencies combined. Mugu Lagoon, administered by the U.S. Navy, supports one of the recreation area’s most sensitive and endangered biological resources.

To the extent possible, the goals, policies and special land designations of the cooperating agencies are reflected in this GMP/EIS. One of the document’s principal purposes is to provide a common framework whereby the mission and program objectives of each agency can be promoted for greater efficiency, implementation and more enduring results, to the benefit of humans and park resources alike. As the resources are best managed and preserved by a seamless expanse of parklands, so the public is best served by a seamless recreational experience that avoids unnecessary, confusing and wasteful duplication of government services.

The Park



*No other urban
national park
features such a
diversity of natural,
cultural, scenic,
and recreational
resources within
such a densely
populated area.*



THE PARK

The Congress of the United States, finding that "...there are significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, natural, archeological, and public health benefits provided by the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent coastline area," established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 1978. It did so to "...preserve its scenic, natural, and historic setting and its public health value as an air shed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational need of the visiting public." A core tenet of the 1978 legislation is partnership among federal and state park agencies, as well as local governments and private landowners.

Regional Location and Boundaries

The cooperative framework among agencies also means that SMMNRA has rather complex boundaries compared to other national park units. The legislated boundary of this park generally covers the Santa Monica Mountain region in southern California. It totals 150,050 acres, and currently encompasses 69,099 acres of protected parkland. Ninety percent of the area within the SMMNRA boundaries is not developed.

The recreation area extends from the Hollywood Bowl on the east, 46 miles west to Point Mugu, and averages seven miles in width. To the north, the recreation area is bordered by Simi Valley, the San Fernando Valley, and many communities that have developed along Highway 101. These include Calabasas, Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills. The Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) crosses the recreation area to the south and includes Topanga, Malibu and Pacific Palisades. In the east the recreation area begins just north of Hollywood with small, undeveloped canyons. A little farther west, in Topanga State Park, the mountains reach a width of eight miles across, most of which is within the city limits of Los Angeles. The further west one travels the wilder and less developed the mountains become, ending at Point Mugu State Park, which encompasses the recreation area's only designated wilderness.

▲ Few national parks feature such a diverse assemblage of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources within easy access of more than 17 million people (NPS photo).



The Santa Monica Mountain Zone (SMMZ), comprising an additional 75,000 acres, was also established by the 1978 legislation. It extends beyond the boundaries of the national recreation area and includes the entire Santa Monica Mountain range. Local and state agencies are responsible for land use regulations within this zone, but the National Park Service retains, by law, reviewing authority on projects involving federal funds, permits, or licenses that may affect the recreation area. This authority was provided by Congress to reduce downstream impacts on recreation area resources when possible. The SMMZ incorporates watersheds and canyon slopes associated with, but not formally included in the SMMNRA, as well as the easternmost extension of the Santa Monica Mountains from the Hollywood freeway to include Griffith Park.

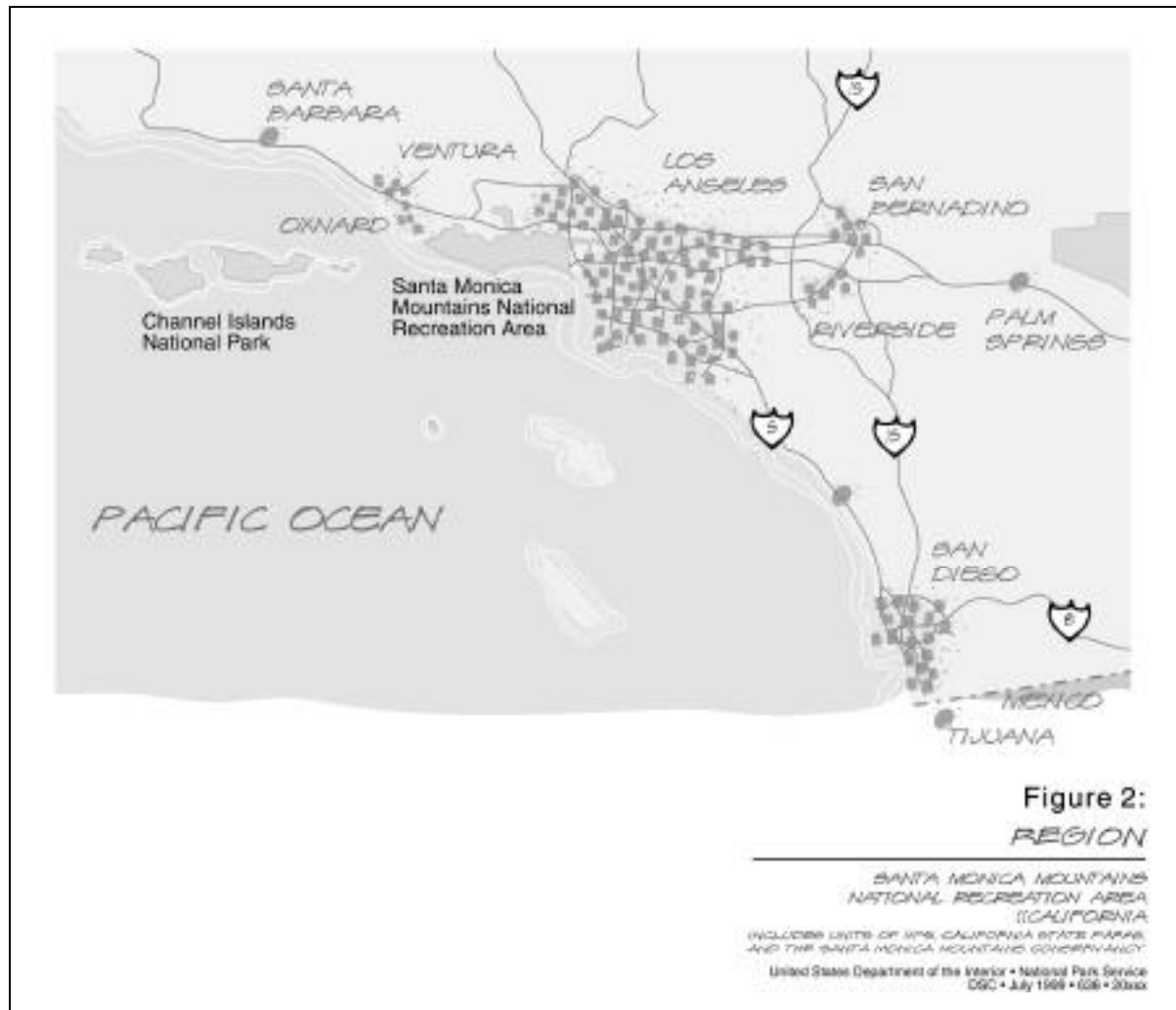
LAND OWNERSHIP

The Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Act (enacted in 1978) mandated that a comprehensive plan be created to lay the framework for what the recreation area should be in terms of size and character. Then as now, the state of California was the largest public landowner, with more than 28,000 acres of land in four major state parks. Federal land acquisition began in 1980, with an authorization of \$155 million. At that time the National Park Service targeted approximately 70,000 acres for future acquisition. When completed, about 100,000 of the SMMNRA's 150,000 acres would be parkland.

Currently, some 63,000 acres of open space lands are held by government and conservation agencies within the SMMNRA. The largest amount of acreage remains in private ownership. Land ownership statistics within the SMMNRA boundary have been listed on Table 1.

Table 1

LAND OWNERSHIP STATISTICS WITHIN SMMNRA BOUNDARY		
Land Owner (Geographic Area)	Total Acreage	% of SMMNRA Boundary
Private Land	76,017	54
State of California Parkland	33,271	22
National Park Service	21,832	14
Other Los Angeles County Land (non-parkland)	3,258	3
Mountain Resources Conservation Authority/ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Land	7,392	4
Other City of Los Angeles Land (non-parkland)	2,009	2
Miscellaneous Public Land	1,463	0.83
COSCA Open Space	96	0.66
Other Federal Land (non-parkland)	936	0.63
Mountain Restoration Trust	1,292	0.61
Los Angeles County Parkland	968	0.56
City of Los Angeles Parkland	447	0.31
Other State Land (non-parkland)	328	0.21



Regional location of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA).

LAND PROTECTION PLAN

The 1998 *Land Protection Plan* (LPP) is among the most critical to the formulation of this draft GMP/EIS. The LPP identifies and spatially locates significant natural, cultural and recreational resource parcels. The recreation area uses GIS, i.e., geographic information system software, to organize and analyze natural, cultural and recreational conservation criteria established by scientists and park managers throughout southern California. The GIS software groups the criteria and assigns a relative “score” to each

parcel – in essence, a ranking of its parkland resource value. The specific resource information for each parcel can be listed to support its relative ranking for parkland acquisition. The LPP’s information provides supportive “resource reasoning” for efforts to acquire particular properties.

Because knowledge of the Santa Monica Mountains is ever increasing, the GIS system is intentionally dynamic, ever expanding the resource reasoning in land protection. When this general management plan is finally adopted, it would be reflected in the database used in the land protection process.



All immediate adjustments to the recreation area boundary contained within this draft GMP/EIS are predicated on the assumption of donation, land transfer or purchase by a non-federal entity. Recommendations for additional boundary studies do not make this assumption, and the impact of additional acquisition costs would be one of the factors considered in any future study.

The NPS and its partners continue to pursue parkland acquisition within the SMMNRA boundaries. This draft GMP/EIS presents a broad-brush approach concerning which areas in the mountains should be considered low, moderate or high intensity use areas. The SMMNRA *Land Protection Plan* provides specific parcel-based resource information to substantiate acquisition efforts in the GMP/EIS's use zones. The LPP provides a better understanding of resource and recreation values at risk, and enables the NPS to assess alternative approaches to resource protection, such as conservation easements, land exchanges and habitat conservation plans.

Description of the Park

People have inhabited the Santa Monica Mountains of southern California since prehistoric times. The planning process for this draft GMP/EIS has focused on understanding and preserving the human relationships with the recreation area's physical, natural and cultural resources. The following resource descriptions might provide an idea of the human values that would be at stake if a sustainable plan were not in place.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The mountains and beaches of the recreation area form a dramatic contrast to the urban sprawl of the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin. The east-west trending mountain range is geologically complex and characterized by steep, rugged mountain

slopes and canyons. Elevations range from sea level to more than 3,000 feet. The Santa Monica Mountains are adjacent to 46 miles of scenic California coastline with sandy beaches and rocky tide pools and lagoons. Long, wide, white beaches stretch along much of the coast, occasionally giving way to high bluffs and rocky outcrops jutting seaward. At 1,400 acres, Mugu Lagoon is the largest coastal wetland outside the San Francisco Bay area. Malibu Lagoon and Mugu Lagoon are important stopovers for neo-tropical and other birds migrating along the Pacific flyway.

The diversity of the coastal resources along Santa Monica Bay is magnificent. The Saddlerock pictograph site is deemed eligible as a national historic landmark and the Paramount Movie Ranch is an historically significant cultural landscape. Will Rogers house, the Adamson House and Los Encinos are important visitor attractions.

NATURAL RESOURCES

There is tremendous ecological diversity within the recreation area. Grassy hills, oak woodlands, valley oak savannas, rocky outcrops, and riparian woodlands give way to chaparral-covered slopes, coastal marshes, and rural residential and agricultural areas. Numerous mammals are found in the mountains, including bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, mule deer, golden eagle and badgers. Nearly 400 species of birds and 35 species of reptiles and amphibians are known to occur in the SMMNRA. There are 23 federally-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species, three state-listed threatened and endangered species, and 46 animal, and 12 plant "species of concern." These wildlife species and vegetation types are a part of a diverse and increasingly rare, complex natural ecosystem that has adapted to the southern California Mediterranean-type climate of wet winters and warm, dry summers.

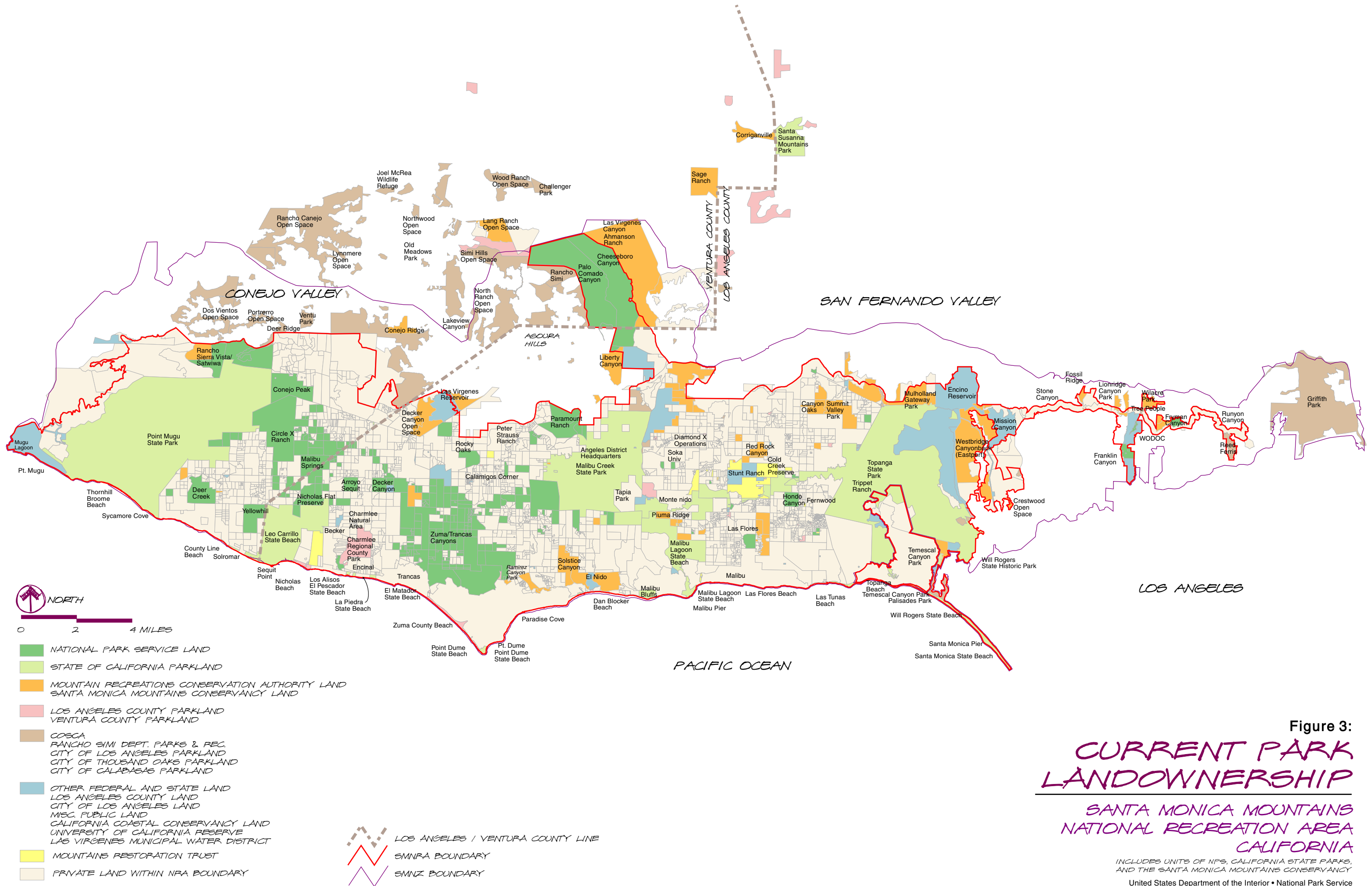


Figure 3:

CURRENT PARK LANDOWNERSHIP

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CALIFORNIA

INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
SAMO • September 2000 • 638 • 20069



The Santa Monica Mountains are adjacent to 46 miles of scenic California coastline with sandy beaches and rocky tide pools and lagoons.

The global significance of the Mediterranean-type ecosystem is becoming increasingly recognized. A recent mapping of global environments shows this biome among the smallest and most rare on earth, and each has experienced intense human occupation. As a result, only 18 percent of this ecosystem remain undisturbed in the world.

Fire has been an especially important factor shaping ecosystems of the Santa Monica Mountains. Fire contributes to the control of nutrient cycles and energy pathways. Through much of the past, fire has been a natural process, contributing to the diversity, productivity and regeneration of ecosystems. The recreation area's vegetation and wildlife have evolved over millions of years in partial

response to naturally occurring fires. These fires, in combination with aboriginal burning during the last 12,000 years, shaped the landscape.

However, the current proximity and accessibility of the mountains to millions of people have heavily influenced current fire regimes. All of the major fires since 1925 have been human caused – either by arson or accidental events (e.g. downed power poles, vehicle emissions, cigarettes tossed out the car window, etc.). In the southern California brushlands, numbers of fires have increased and fire rotation intervals have decreased over the 20th century as population densities have increased (Keeley, et.al. 1999). Even accounting for burning by Native American Indians, it was likely that pre-historic fire

frequency was lower and return intervals significantly longer. Fire has long been used as a tool to intentionally convert shrub lands to clear farmland and produce grasslands more suitable to grazing livestock. Now, however, high fire frequencies are creating an undesired effect. The conversion of native chaparral communities to non-native grasslands has altered the native vegetation structure, which facilitates further invasion of non-native species – particularly exotic species.

The fire season begins in early May, when the non-native annual grasslands dry up. The season continues throughout the summer, and is comprised of high temperatures and the long summer drought. The Santa Ana winds, which are prevalent in late summer, also contribute to the high fire hazard.



View of Sycamore Canyon (NPS photo).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Few national parks feature such a diverse assemblage of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources within easy access of more than 17 million people. The population surrounding the SMMNRA has developed a California-type of lifestyle and culture that has influenced the world with innovative contemporary architecture, literature, music and recreational pursuits. The California film

industry has added to the region's legacy by capturing the American culture on film and exporting historical images to the world with many Santa Monica Mountain locations in the background.

Aside from the contemporary California culture, the Santa Monica Mountains surround nationally significant ethnographic, archeological, historic and scenic sites. More than 1,000 known archeological sites are located within the SMMNRA boundary, one of the highest densities of archeological resources found in any mountain range in the world. The 26 known Chumash pictograph sites, sacred to traditional Native American Indians, are among the most spectacular found anywhere. Nearly every major prehistoric and historic theme associated with human interaction and development of the western United States is represented here. More than 73 historic sites in the Santa Monica Mountains are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Among these are recreation area sites such as Paramount Ranch, which continues to be used by the filming industry.

An estimated 40 percent of all the land throughout the Santa Monica Mountains has been surveyed for archeological sites, and about 70 percent of National Park Service lands in the SMMNRA have been surveyed for archeological sites. California State Parks conducts similar studies and inventories on state park properties in the course of preparing or updating general plans, interpretive or educational plans, resource management plans, and comprehensive master plans.

In 2001, SAMO will begin an Historic Resource Study of NPS lands. This is a three-year project that will identify and nominate to the National Register those structures, sites and cultural landscapes that appear to meet National Register criteria for listing at the local, state or national level of significance.

Rich and diverse cultural resources have contributed to the “livability” of the Santa Monica Mountains. Nearly every major prehistoric and historic theme associated with human interaction and development of the western United States is represented within the SMMNRA boundary – from early hunters and gatherers, to Native American Indian cultures, the Spanish mission and rancho periods, and the American homestead era. Over time, these cultures developed large villages, extensive maritime and inland trade routes, and monetary systems. Their legacy is recorded through sacred pictographs, records of their extensive astronomical knowledge, and exquisite basketry, stone and woodcarvings. The Santa Monica Mountains were, and still remain, home to two of the largest Native American Indian groups in California, the Chumash and the Gabrielino/Tongva.

Beginning in the late 1880s, the mountains were recognized as a resort mecca by recreation and sports clubs as well as non-profit organizations and churches. Many groups have built retreats here. Large estates began to appear in the 1920s and continue to be built today.



Petroglyph discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains (NPS photo).

The easy accessibility and varied topography of the Santa Monica Mountains was also key to the emergence of the movie industry in Los Angeles. From here, the movie industry created – and exported to the world – the Hollywood version of the American culture. The Paramount Ranch constitutes one of the best remaining cultural sites associated with the golden age of motion pictures. The motion picture production history spans silent movie making to modern television programming. As the motion picture industry brought fame to southern California, celebrated “stars” moved to Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu, forming the nucleus of luxurious movie colonies.



The Santa Monica Mountains were, in the past and present, a backdrop for numerous movies and television productions (NPS archives).



VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors to Los Angeles experience the natural beauty and cultural richness of the SMMNRA as a welcome natural and cultural alternative to the highly developed greater Los Angeles area. It would be the goal of this draft GMP/EIS to provide guidance for the SMMNRA to continue to provide these experiences.

Just outside the recreation area boundary, the communities surrounding the Santa Monica Mountains have led growth in the state for the last 15 to 20 years. Residential and commercial centers have filled the valley floors and foothills north of the mountains. The San Fernando Valley, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks communities have developed new tract subdivisions, apartment complexes, large planned communities, and commercial centers. The desire to live in a rural setting, void of urban distractions and stresses, is a strong factor in the development within the recreation area boundary.



Zuma-Trancas Canyon (NPS photo).

Each year more than 33 million visitors enjoy the beaches and mountains within the SMMNRA. Visitors hike, bike or ride on hundreds of miles of mountain trails, or drive the scenic roads. Communities within and adjacent to the recreation area provide a wide variety of visitor and tourist services.

Implementing any one of the alternatives proposed in this draft GMP/EIS would allow visitors to continue to experience the variety of activities in the recreation area. Any of the plans would be designed to create a feeling of compassion for the treasures of California's past and to encourage appreciation for the remaining land so that it would continue to be protected and available for future enjoyment.

► National Park Service

The National Park Service "oversees" the SMMNRA, but currently has direct responsibility for only about 15 percent of the land within the boundary. The NPS is a partner, sharing stewardship with the public, other agencies and private landowners. The National Park Service provides for the operation, maintenance, resource management, education, and resource and visitor protection on all NPS lands. The legislation establishing the 150,000-acre SMMNRA emphasizes cooperative relationships. Thus, NPS has a less direct, but very clear duty to support activities on non-NPS lands consistent with the purposes of the SMMNRA. Please refer to Figure 4 for the existing conditions and recreational opportunities of the park. National Park Service units include:

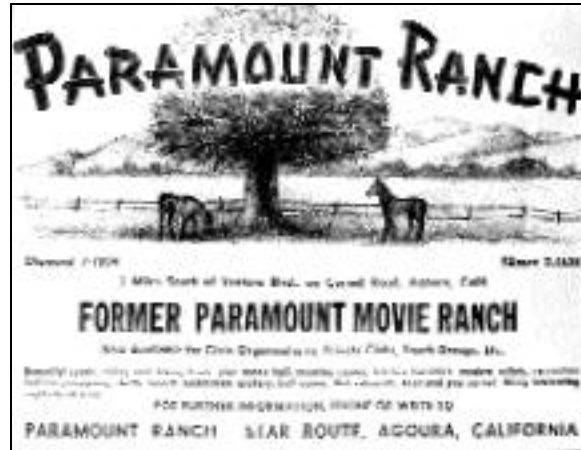
- **Zuma-Trancas Canyon**— This wild coastal canyon is largely undisturbed by adjacent development and contains endangered species and rare perennial streams. The canyon contains critical core habitat and abundant species diversity. Hiking trails are available. Bicycles are allowed on Zuma Ridge.

- **Paramount Ranch**– This historic movie ranch is used by filmmakers. The ranch features beautiful valley oak savannas and short hiking trails. This site is currently used for interpretation and observation of filmmaking. There are several trails at the ranch and it is used as an outdoor classroom for environmental education.
- **Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa** – This is a place of special significance to Native American Indians as it contains sites of a Chumash habitation and is the crossroad of two Native American Indian trails and trade routes. Beautiful views of Boney Mountain feature a pastoral ranch-like setting. The site is currently used as a Satwiwa Native American Cultural Center with interpretive programs and recreational trails. It is a gateway to Point Mugu State Park and Boney Mountain Wilderness. There are several trails here and it is used as an outdoor classroom for environmental education.



Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa (NPS photo).

- **Arroyo Sequit**– This area is rolling grassland mixed with chaparral with a picnic area and a wood frame ranch house serving as a ranger residence. The site is considered a significant



Culturally significant Paramount Ranch (NPS archives).

example of the homesteading era. The area is excellent for viewing the night sky as it is tucked away from the lights of Los Angeles.

- **Circle X Ranch**– One of the few individual and group camping sites, this site is the gateway to the most remote parts of the Santa Monica Mountains and has the highest peak in the range. It is a secluded mountainous area with impressive rocky outcrops and a variety of scenic trails. This site was a Boy Scout camp from the 1950s to the 1960s. The ranch has areas for picnicking and a ranch house for group use.
- **Rocky Oaks**– One of the more accessible sites in the mountains, Rocky Oaks is scenic oak woodlands with a pond and wetlands. It is adjacent to the Saddle Rock pictograph site. This unit has nature trails, an amphitheater and picnic area.
- **Castro Crest**– Part of the Backbone Trail corridor, this prominent ridgeline has stunning rock formations and views of the ocean and the mountains.





Upper Cheesebore Canyon (NPS photo).

- **Cheesebore Canyon and Simi Hills**

Rolling hills with valley oak savannas and unique rock lands provide habitat for nesting raptors here. Lush riparian areas comprise the character of this site. It is a significant cattle ranching district used from the 1780s to the 1900s. Some of the most significant Chumash and Gabrielino/Tongva religious sites are outside of the NPS boundary. Views from Simi Peak dramatically contrast the surrounding valleys and natural landscapes with the man-made environment. This area receives a high level of use on the trails by mountain bikers, horseback riders and hikers.



Peter Strauss Ranch (NPS photo).

- **Solstice Canyon**– Solstice Canyon is a lush, narrow canyon that offers a perennial stream with an extensive riparian population of rare white alders. The Canyon also features several notable archeological sites and a stone cabin, built by Mathew Keller, which represents homesteading in the coastal Santa Monica Mountains. There are several trails in the canyon and it is used as an outdoor classroom for environmental education.

- **Peter Strauss Ranch**– A small ranch showcases the original stone house (1927) and outbuildings built by the original owner, Harry Miller, inventor of the carburetor. The Smithsonian refers to him as the greatest automotive genius of the century. This site is used for

- **California State Parks**

Of the 150,000 acres included within the boundary of the national recreation area, the California State Parks manages an estimated 33,271 acres.

The CSP administers its lands according to the classifications of the State Park and Recreation Commission. Classifications include wilderness, reserves, parks, recreation

areas, historical units and natural preserves. Department headquarters is located in Malibu Creek State Park. State park units are listed below and illustrated in Figure 4:

- **Point Mugu State Park**– This area makes up one of the largest contiguous undisturbed areas in the SMMNRA. It features a large wilderness preserve area and perennial streams. There are significant diverse plant communities. The mountain and coastal interface provides a unique recreational experience. The Point Mugu area was also an important trade route for Native Americans with numerous associated archeological sites. There are beach and canyon campgrounds, a group campground area, picnic facilities, and hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails.
- **Leo Carrillo State Beach**– There is a variety of habitat from significant tide pools to upland vegetative habitats here, with one of the best areas for viewing wildflowers in this unit in the western part of the recreation area. It is also a monarch butterfly migration area. There are beach and canyon campground facilities (including group camping). A large archeological village site is located near the beach.
- **Point Dume State Beach**– This promontory defines the northern end of Santa Monica Bay and provides spectacular views of the entire coastal corridor of the recreation area. The unit is divided into a popular recreational beach area (on the up coast

end) and a natural preserve that includes the promontory, natural upland habitat, tide pools, a remote beach and a seal haul out area.

- **Malibu Creek State Park**– This area has a variety of habitat, perennial creeks, pools, lakes, valley oaks, lush riparian areas and views of rugged mountains. It has been used for many movie and television locations. It was a significant interface site between the two Native American Indian groups, the Chumash and the Gabrielino/Tonga. There is a Chumash village site here as well as several historic structures. Campground and picnic facilities are scattered throughout the park, as are numerous hiking trails. This site also serves as headquarters for the Angeles District of the California State Parks.



Point Mugu State Park (NPS photo).

- **Malibu Lagoon State Beach**– is one of the two significant lagoons in southern California. It is a habitat for Steelhead and Goby and is a major bird flyway. The beach area is considered superior for



Point Mugu State Park (NPS photo).

surfing. The Adamson House features the best surviving example of the Malibu tile industry. There was a Chumash village site here that was a regional capital before the Spanish settled here.

- **Topanga State Park**– This area is the largest contiguous block of native habitat in the eastern part of the Santa Monica Mountains and has some of the most significant marine and plant fossils in the Santa Monica Mountains. There are hiking and horse trails, a small picnic area and a flat area for informal sports. The first archeological site recorded in Los Angeles County is here as well as many other religious sites.
- **Will Rogers State Historical Park** At the southern end of the Santa Monica Mountains adjoining Topanga State Park are the home, outbuildings and polo field

of Will Rogers. The Will Rogers house and barn are on the National Register of Historic Places. The site also functions as a stable, and trailhead for the Backbone Trail, Nature Center and Museum. There are trails connecting to Topanga State Park.

► **Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was created in 1979 as the successor agency of the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission and to complement the zoning power of local governments and the acquisition of lands by the federal government within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. The SMMC relies on the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan* (1979), a plan that is compatible with the goals of the recreation area, to determine which land should be acquired. The SMMC

also reviews the consistency of local government actions with the comprehensive plan as they determine their eligibility for NPS or SMMC managed grant programs.

The primary responsibility of the agency is to acquire land and turn it over to the appropriate land management agencies. The SMMC is not a park management agency, although it has acquired many key park and recreation parcels in the mountains, totaling 5,200 acres. The SMMC has also developed a series of scenic overlooks along Mulholland Scenic Corridor and has been very supportive of the purposes of the national recreation area. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is the land management arm of the SMMC created under a Joint Powers Agreement in cooperation with several local park agencies.

Headquarters for the SMMC is at the Ramirez Canyon Park in Malibu (refer to Figure 4). Through the assistance of its joint powers authority, the MRCA operates the following SMMC lands within the national recreation area:

- **Coldwater Canyon**– Once the mountain patrol headquarters for the Los Angeles Fire Department, it is now an environmental education center with seven miles of nature trail and environmental displays.
- **Corral Canyon**– This canyon accesses part of the Pacific Coast trail network running north/south through the Santa Monica Mountains.
- **Cross-Mountain Parks**– Several pockets of open space within surrounding urban residential development in the eastern portion of the Santa Monica Mountains provide views and hiking trails. These natural oases contain riparian forests, oak woodlands and chaparral
- **Franklin Canyon Ranch**– Cooperatively administered with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, this open space

is a natural canyon in the heart of an urban area that features trails (including one ADA accessible) and the William O. Douglas Outdoor Center. It is a site for filming with its picturesque springs, creek and lake. The ranch still contains portions of the water delivery system to Los Angeles from the Owens Valley Aqueduct designed by Mulholland, and is potentially eligible for the national register.

- **Fryman Canyon**– A wayside overlook on Mulholland Drive provides spectacular views of Los Angeles, Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley, Santa Susanna Mountains and the west end of the San Gabriel Mountains. There is a mountain trail connecting to Coldwater Canyon and Wilacre Park, offering an opportunity to experience a chaparral wilderness hiking experience
- **Mission Canyon**– Part of the original Mulholland Scenic Corridor Park sites, it was formerly attached to the Nike missile site, and was a landfill for 20 years, serving the San Fernando Valley. The canyon is just west of the San Diego Freeway and south of Mulholland Drive.
- **Red Rock Canyon**– Large, beautiful eroded boulders of sandstone and conglomerate rock fill this canyon. The conservancy has converted a pre-existing Boy Scouts of America building into a wilderness training and education center.
- **San Vicente Mountain Park**– This 10.23-acre park was also the former site of a Nike missile tracking station in the 1950s and 1960s. The park is one and a half miles west of Los Angeles County Sanitation District Mission Canyon Landfill. After many years of public abuse the park was restored to native vegetation and gravel paths, with the intent of utilizing the old radar tower as a hillside-viewing platform.



- **Temescal Canyon Gateway Park**– The main southern entrance and parking area for hikers headed into the steep backcountry of Topanga State Park is at this gateway park. The shaded canyon shelters the facilities and structures for the Presbyterian Conference Grounds, which, in the 1920s used the Canyon for their annual Chatauqua summer festivals.

Park Significance, Mission and Goals

Congress established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 1978 as a cooperative effort to preserve the scenic, natural and historic, as well as public health values of the Santa Monica Mountains. Those purposes serve as the basic guide for this planning effort. Planning direction is further refined by the orderly progression through four successive steps. First, consideration must be given to the SMMNRA's national significance. Then, a basic statement of mission based on significance and legislative purposes is established. This is followed by the identification of planning issues that challenge the success of the SMMNRA's mission. Finally a set of mission goals is established defining the necessary outcomes and conditions that the plan must take, to realize the basic purpose and mission of the park. The final plan, as well as the other alternatives considered during this planning process, must fulfill and/or be consistent with the SMMNRA's mission goals.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is nationally significant because it protects for the American people the greatest expanse of mainland Mediterranean ecosystems in the National Park System. As such, it is among the world's

rarest and most endangered ecosystems. This extraordinarily diverse ecosystem is home to 26 distinct natural communities, from freshwater aquatic habitats and two of the last salt marshes on the Pacific Coast, to oak woodlands, valley oak savannas, and chaparral. Situated within a one-hour commute to more than 17 million people (a population large enough to rank behind California, New York and Texas in size), the recreation area is a critical haven for more than 450 animal species, including mountains lions, bobcats and golden eagles. It is also home to more than 50 threatened or endangered plants and animals-- among the highest concentrations of such rare species in the United States.

The significance of the Santa Monica Mountains is further established by the existence of more than 1000 archeological sites within the park's boundaries. These sites reflect human habitations in these mountains dating back at least 10,000 years. Seventy-three sites of significance are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Native American Indians have a long and deeply spiritual history of interaction with the Santa Monica Mountains, and many parts of the park are especially valued by them as



Petroglyph found within the park's boundaries (NPS photo).

The Park
Park Significance, Mission and Goals



The “San Francisco as the 49ers knew it” movie set at Paramount Ranch. The movie, *Wells Fargo*, was produced by Paramount Pictures and directed by Frank Lloyd with Joel McCrea (NPS archives).

places to seek spiritual renewal, conduct traditional ceremonies, and to gather plants for traditional purposes.

The park is also rich in historical themes, ranging from California’s earliest exploration and settlement by Spain, to its subsequent administration by the Republic of Mexico, as well as the course of Los Angeles’ urbanization, from citrus groves to tract homes by way of oil development, motion pictures and freeways. Paramount Ranch, as a case in point, is held by some historians to be the Nation’s best remaining example of a film production facility from Hollywood’s “Golden Era of Motion Pictures.” Continued use of the Santa Monica Mountains for film production preserves a 75-year tradition that still holds the world’s fascination.

PARK MISSION

Drawing upon the foregoing legislative purpose and significance, the staff of the National Park Service, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy created a joint mission

statement in 1997 to guide the general management plan and environmental impact statement through its evolution. Over the next year, as ideas and visions for the future were generated by the public and staff during meetings and public hearings, all were tested against this statement.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is to protect and enhance, on a sustainable basis, one of the world’s last remaining examples of a Mediterranean ecosystem and to maintain the area’s unique natural, cultural and scenic resources, unimpaired for future generations. The SMMNRA is to provide an inter-linking system of parklands and open spaces that offer compatible recreation and education opportunities that are accessible to a diverse public. This is accomplished by an innovative federal, state, local, and private partnership that enhances the region’s quality of life and provides a model for other parks challenged by urbanization.



**PLANNING ISSUES
(MISSION CHALLENGES)**

Since July 1997, public workshops were conducted, newsletters with comment forms were distributed, and agencies were interviewed with the intent of determining the issues relevant to the recreation area. The dimensions of many of these problems exceed the reach of this plan's solutions, such as traffic and population growth. Even so, the intent of this draft GMP/EIS is to formulate strategies that limit their impact on SMMNRA resources and the fulfillment of the park's mission.

The six categories below highlight the issues affecting the recreation area's future.

RESOURCE CONDITION ISSUES

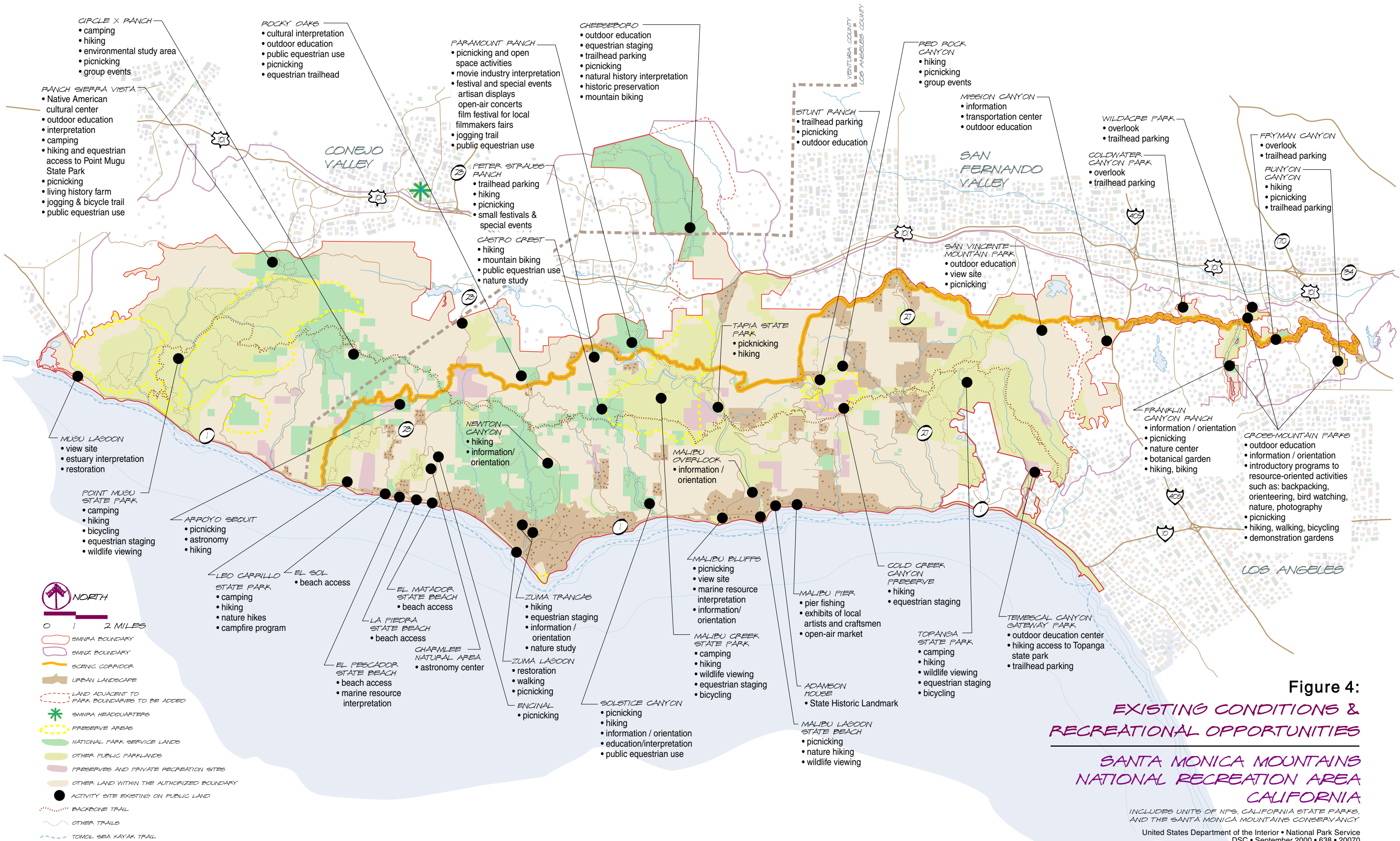
- The Los Angeles region continues to grow rapidly, placing immense pressure on the SMMNRA. Human construction and intrusion have resulted in the loss or degradation of resources, including threatened and endangered species habitat.
- Cultural resources are at risk as more people visit the recreation area, and development continues on each side of the boundary.
- Critical habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, archeological and historical sites on private lands is disappearing to development.
- Certain cultural landscapes have a unique character important to the human history of the Santa Monica Mountains. They may be diminished by incompatible future development.
- Many home sites, highly susceptible to fire, flood, land sliding and earthquakes, are being developed with little regard for environmental consequences, potential for



Wildlife amidst an encroaching, man-made environment (NPS photo).



New homes overlooking Lake Sherwood with Stoney Point in the background (photo by Ed Lawrence).





HABITAT LOSS AND FRAGMENTATION

THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS are nearly isolated from other natural areas in southern California by the surrounding urban and agricultural lands. In addition, ongoing development throughout the mountains is subdividing the remaining natural landscape. Continued habitat loss and fragmentation threatens the long-term existence of many native species and is one of the greatest threats facing biodiversity protection. Larger mammals, such as mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers, are particularly at risk and may be vulnerable to extinction by chance demographic, environmental, and genetic events in fragmented areas. Conservation biologists recognize that protecting large core habitat areas is the most effective way to counter fragmentation effects. Further, maintaining or re-establishing connections between large areas would help prevent isolation of wildlife populations.

To address these concerns, the park has adopted a three-step program of research, monitoring, and management actions. The value of a core area, habitat linkage, or corridor is dependent on its use by wildlife. Thus, the first step in the program is research on habitat use and area requirements of selected target species, including the use of corridors and linkages by wildlife. Second, the park monitors the effects of human activity on wildlife, including effects of recreation, urban and residential development, habitat fragmentation, and traffic. Target plant and animal species – “vital signs” – are being identified for detecting potential changes over time. Finally, the knowledge gained from ongoing research and monitoring is used to identify, protect and restore a network of core habitat areas, linkages and corridors at a variety of spatial scales.

causing human misery, or consequent burden on taxpayers.

- Competition for remaining open lands diminishes park values, and ongoing development continues to escalate land prices.
- Private development of residences along ridgelines and the oceanfront intrude on the scenic vistas.

LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP ISSUES

- Implementation of an effective land management strategy is difficult because more than 65 government entities share jurisdiction of land within the park boundary.
 - ^a The public land managing partners are often unable to acquire additional lands due to limited funding and a lengthy acquisition process.



Hikers on one of many trails in the SMMNRA (NPS photo).

VISITOR EXPERIENCE ISSUES

- Conflicts among different recreational users, such as mountain bikers, horseback riders and hikers, detract from the quality of the SMMNRA experience.
- Population growth and increasing visitation require more facilities, parking areas, and established trails, and decrease opportunities for solitude in much of the recreation area.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION ISSUES

- Current environmental education programs are too limited in availability to meet the needs and numbers of the diverse population of the Los Angeles area.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- Mountains and beaches are inaccessible to many people in the Los Angeles area due to lack of public transportation, insufficient routing information about how to access recreation sites, and heavily congested roads during commuter periods and weekends.
- Many of the existing park facilities are not universally accessible.

OPERATIONS ISSUES

- Proximity and similarities in missions overlap among the public land managers in the SMMNRA, resulting in a risk of duplication of facilities and effort.

MISSION GOALS

The SMMNRA would strive to achieve the following goals regardless of the alternative selected in this planning process. These goals incorporate public comments about desired future conditions for the park. The Mission Goals also reflect the planning issues identified in the previous section, as well as the mission, law, core values and policies of the three principal park agencies joined in this planning effort.

RESOURCE CONDITION GOALS

- Protect and enhance species, habitat diversity and natural processes within the SMMNRA.
- Protect and restore native plant species and plant communities, such as coastal sage scrub, coastal live oak woodland, and valley oak savannas.
- Enact programs to combat and remove the encroachment of exotic flora and fauna into natural ecosystems when possible.
- Manage fire throughout the recreation area to mimic natural fire regimes as much as possible and reduce the threat of wildfires.
- Maintain or improve water quality throughout the SMMNRA. Manage riparian communities, natural stream characteristics, estuaries and coastal waters for their significant ecological value.
- Implement collaborative scientific research and innovative resource management programs among federal, state and local agencies to manage, restore, and maintain natural processes.

The Park
Park Significance, Mission and Goals

- Minimize development of open space, ethnographic and cultural landscapes within the recreation area. Resource protection and management would take priority in decisions regarding proposed developments, and the SMMNRA would work with local municipalities to provide scientific, resource related information on which to base actions.
- Promote and perpetuate biological diversity through development density strategies, such as “buffer” areas adjacent to the SMMNRA.
- Allow natural erosion processes to continue within the recreation area.
- Protect coastal bluffs from non-expendable development.



ALIEN PLANT CONTROL

ALIEN PLANTS COMPRISE 27 percent of the Santa Monica Mountains flora, a figure higher than the overall average for California. The problem is exacerbated by urbanization and the increasing recreational use of the mountains, which contributes to disturbances, including fire. These disturbances facilitate the introduction and spread of alien plants. Many of these alien plants originate in the Mediterranean basin and northern Europe and have demonstrated superior competitive abilities in human-influenced environments. Alien plants present a profound threat to the integrity of native communities. Invasive alien plants can displace native species, degrade wildlife habitat, and alter ecosystem functioning.

The fire season can be extended and areas not prone to fire can become flammable. Entire vegetation types may be undesirably converted. Finally, alien invaders alter the visual landscape, degrading aesthetic values and giving park visitors a false perspective on the natural history of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The NPS mandate is to manage lands under its stewardship in a manner that sustains natural biotic associations and fosters healthy, sustainable plant and animal communities. In so doing the aesthetic and recreational enjoyment of visitors is improved and negative ecological and aesthetic impacts from alien species is minimized through effective control and eradication coupled with restoration of disturbed areas.

To achieve this, the park would develop and implement a comprehensive alien plant management plan to control and check the most pernicious alien species.





*Westlake
before Triunfo
Canyon Road
was cut (photo
by Ed Lawrence).*

- Preserve the cultural history of the Santa Monica Mountains. Encourage cooperative cultural resource stewardship programs throughout the SMMNRA.
- Evaluate potentially eligible ethnographic sites, traditional cultural properties, buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes on the National Register of Historic Places. Manage according to policy and legislation. Develop interpretive programs to educate the public about their significance and to solicit public assistance in preservation efforts.
- Encourage cooperation between land managing agencies and local organizations to protect and preserve the natural, ethnographic and historic resources of the SMMNRA.
- Create a shared curatorial facility for the three agencies to preserve the baseline data of the natural and cultural resources and museum collections. Develop a process to protect significant resource collections that would include resources recovered from private lands.
- Develop influential museum partnerships with other agencies and institutions, and the Friends of Satwiwa.
- Share results from consultations with Native American Indians and other ethnic groups with ties to the SMMNRA.
- Establish an ongoing dialogue and partnership with state and local governments, agencies, jurisdictions, and park neighbors to promote shared responsibility to protect open space and adjoining habitat, trails, ethnographic and historic resources and scenic vistas.

LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP GOALS

- Make the NPS, CSP and SMMC built environments work in harmony with the natural environment. Use aesthetically pleasing and compatible design principles.
- Apply sustainable design to minimize the short and long term environmental impacts of NPS, CSP and SMMC development. Use resource conservation, recycling, waste minimization, and energy-efficient and ecologically responsible materials and techniques for construction when feasible.

The Park
Park Significance, Mission and Goals

- Discourage when possible the use of public funds for the rebuilding of public and private facilities destroyed by natural processes in zones of high hazard (e.g., floods, fires, earthquakes, geologic hazards, etc.)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS

- Complete the Backbone Trail and manage as a scenic corridor to provide non-motorized access to diverse points of opportunity for recreation, interpretation, and appreciation involving natural and cultural resources.
- Anticipate and manage potential conflicts among recreational uses. Appropriately enhance the visitor experience and provide a safe and conflict-free environment.
- Accord privacy for the traditional and ceremonial uses of the park's ethnographic resources. Although visitors would gain an appreciation of the Native American Indian history and culture, do not draw attention to the most sensitive of the park's resources.
- Create a seamless, enjoyable experience for visitors.
- Make facilities, programs and services of the recreation area reasonably accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND PRACTICES

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING and operating facilities and programs in the National Park Service has come under increasing scrutiny. Regardless, people are looking to the National Park Service for leadership in developing and promoting more sustainable and environmentally-friendly programs.

To meet this challenge, each alternative would incorporate goals for planning and constructing facilities and operating programs that are sustainable and compatible with environment. Examples include development that harmonizes with the environment, architectural styles that reflect the cultural heritage, and programs that promote recycling and low-energy use.

Implementing these principles and practices would enable the park to provide environmental leadership through example. To this end, a strategy would be developed that uses environmental audits, expands partnerships with environmental groups and agencies, creates a "green practices" handbook, adopts a "green" purchasing program, and transitions operations to a paperless environment.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION GOALS

- Provide an educational outreach program to instruct participants on the functions, issues, opportunities and value of the ecosystem in an expanding urban community. A formal component of this outreach program would be developed in partnership with the local educational system.
- Request that members of distinct cultural communities provide interpretation and education programs.
- Encourage safe and enjoyable resource use and protection. Place information and interpretation at appropriate locations throughout the recreation area and nearby communities. Visitors with differing levels of interest and understanding would easily find the area's cultural and natural features, visitor facilities, activities, and services.
- Create an experience that may increase visitor appreciation and awareness of the environment and historic sites within the SMMNRA and their place in the history of California.
- Place visitor contact facilities strategically at several locations within the recreation area to detail significant stories and provide information and directions to sites and activities.



*Children participating in the biodiversity program
at Satwiwa (NPS photo).*

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION GOALS

- Make SMMNRA facilities universally accessible when possible.
- Promote development of efficient transportation to the SMMNRA from locations throughout southern California, as well as within the park.
- Limit the expansion of the roadways within the SMMNRA.
- Improve the visitor experience and protect park resources by reducing the number of vehicles that use the roads within the NRA.
- De-emphasize the use of private vehicles and making the recreation area accessible to a greater portion of the public by providing a wider range of transportation alternatives.
- Encourage surrounding communities to expand their transit systems into the park by modifying existing visitor facilities and developing new facilities that are accessible to large transit vehicles.
- Educate the public about the benefits of using transportation alternatives.
- Involve the surrounding communities in a cooperative effort to develop partnerships to assist in funding transportation alternatives and achieving common transportation objectives.
- Explore the feasibility of providing a shuttle system within the park.
- Improve the air quality by encouraging the use of alternative forms of transportation and the use of alternative fuels.
- Eliminate visually intrusive power and telephone lines and street lighting along scenic corridors within the SMMNRA.

OPERATIONS GOALS

- Develop and implement a preventative maintenance program for all historic structures and cultural landscapes.



THE 1997 MISSION STATEMENT for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area addresses the significance of partnerships as follows:

The park is a cooperative experiment in resource protection and environmental education with non-federal partners, whose successes would enhance the region's quality of life and provide lessons learned to other national park units increasingly challenged by the forces of urbanization.

Cooperative efforts with regional planning agencies and municipalities have resulted in an ever-expanding trail system that links municipal parks with the state and federal parks. Watershed protection committees have been working synergistically for over five years to improve water quality and protect endangered species such as the southern steelhead trout and the tidewater goby.

Partnerships also make economic sense. The actions and achievements realized through an ongoing cooperative partnership among the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), the California State Parks (CSP), and the National Park Service (NPS) during the last year are estimated to be \$740,000. The bulk of savings were realized through reduced personnel services costs. Other savings included technical services and contracts, equipment, utilities, and supplies. These savings represent a 23 percent increase over the previous year in savings.

In addition to the economic benefits of partnerships, education efforts are improved and involve the community through active volunteer programs. The Mountains Education Program (MEP) coordinates the Recreational Transit Program (RTP), which provides Los Angeles schools with low cost transportation to parks. MEP coordination of this program permits NPS and MEP educators to focus on offering education programs to schoolchildren. Last year, NPS redirected funds to education programs that would have otherwise been expended on transportation coordination needs. The Mountain Bike Patrol Unit (MBU) provides resource and visitor assistance patrols on public lands within the recreation area. The MBU program currently has more than 100 active volunteers.



- Coordinate operational resources to foster better protection of resources and services to the visitor.
 - Develop uniform rules and regulations to the extent possible among the agencies.
 - Utilize information management and telecommunication technology to promote rapid, reliable and efficient internal park operations.
 - Provide for increased use and appreciation of museum collections by staff of all agencies, researchers and the public.
 - Achieve sustainability in all park operations and development of park related facilities, resulting in cost savings and reduced impacts on park resources.
- within recreation area boundaries. Some agencies provide very specific services that are, nonetheless, key opportunities for cooperation and mutual assistance.

Administrative commitments

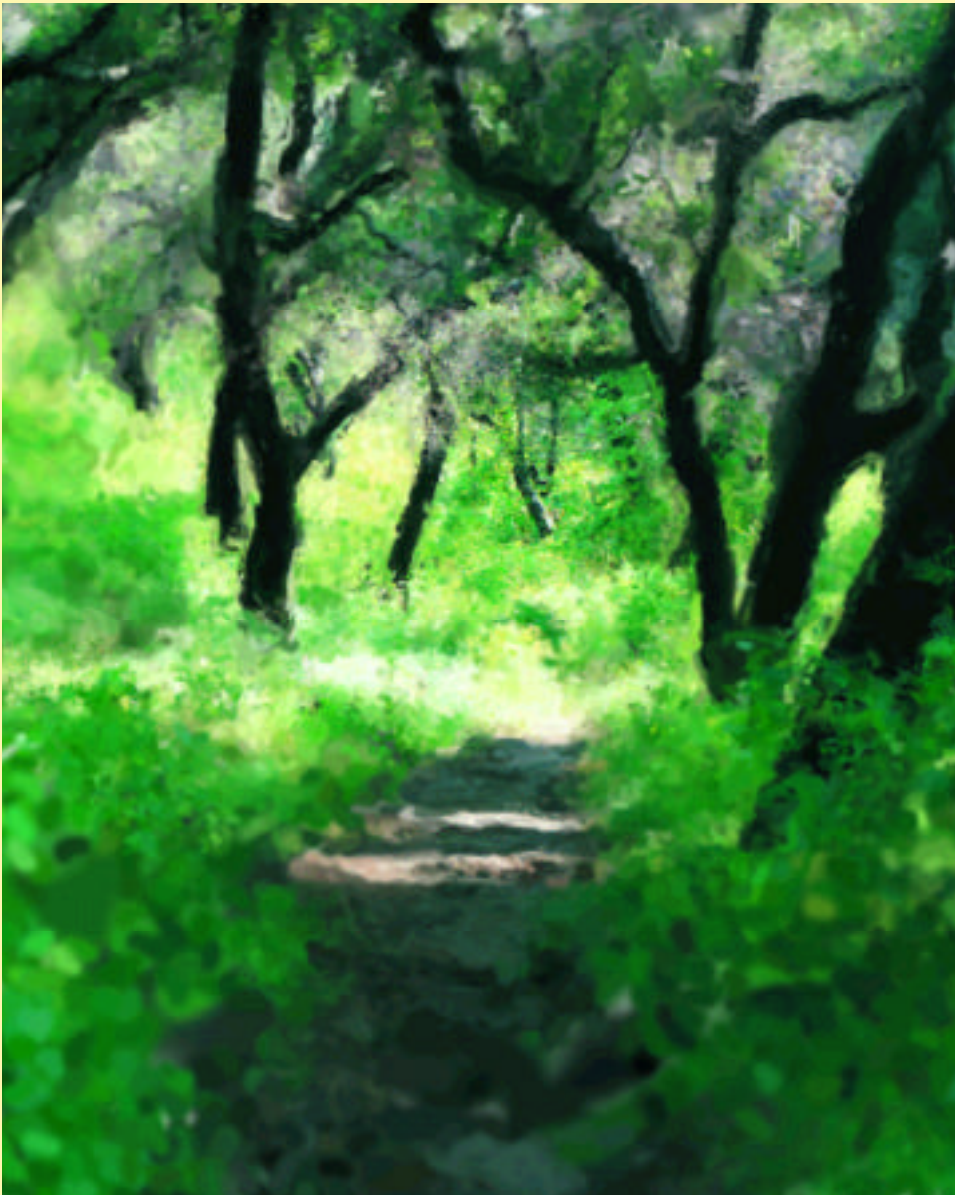
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

While the National Park Service “oversees” the SMMNRA, it currently has direct responsibility for only about 15 percent of the land within the boundary. The NPS is a partner, sharing stewardship with the public, other agencies and private landowners. The National Park Service provides for the operation, maintenance, resource management, and resource and visitor protection on all NPS lands. The legislation establishing the 150,000-acre national recreation area emphasizes cooperative relationships. Thus, NPS has a less direct but very clear duty to support activities on non-NPS lands consistent with the purposes of the SMMNRA.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Other opportunities for cooperative management of the recreation area exist outside the working relationship among the principal park agencies in the SMMNRA. Seventy local, state and federal agencies exercise oversight and permitting activities

Alternatives



The general management plan and environmental impact statement offers five alternative approaches to manage the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area throughout the next 15 to 20 years.



ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The NPS, CSP and SMMC developed management alternatives for the SMMNRA using public responses to newsletters and public meetings as well as ideas from the staffs of the three agencies. Workshops held with leaders from the municipalities and land managers within the SMMNRA boundary also generated concepts for the alternatives and the management areas. This chapter ends with a discussion on the strategies that were considered but eliminated from further study.

The five management alternatives developed for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are detailed in this section. They include:

- No Action Alternative
- Preferred Alternative
- Preservation Alternative
- Education Alternative
- Recreation Alternative

The alternatives include a review of five separate and distinct management areas that have been mapped and prescribed to different degrees for each alternative. The mapping is based on a general scale and does not imply that actions would be taken on private lands. This draft GMP/EIS has no binding authority over these lands. It suggests a future condition that would be compatible with the mission statement of the SMMNRA.

The five management areas described in each alternative include:

- Low Intensity Areas
- Moderate Intensity Areas
- High Intensity Areas
- Scenic Corridor Areas
- Community Landscape Areas

▲ *May wildflower
on Zuma-Trancas
trail (NPS photo).*



The management areas outline the existing and desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time in a specific area. The management areas provide a critical foundation for all subsequent decision-making in the recreation area and are the core of this draft document. They are depicted in Table 7, Management Areas.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

These actions would occur under each alternative and therefore would not be included in each alternative description.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity

Watersheds and coastal resources would be protected and preserved through watershed management practices and improvements.

Estuaries and lagoons would be restored to their natural state.

There are certain properties which are designated on the maps as "Land adjacent to park boundaries to be added". These properties, Upper Las Virgenes Canyon, the land adjacent to San Vicente Mountain Park, and the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor are scheduled to be included in the SMMNRA boundary at some date in the near future. Legislation would be required to make these changes, and any future acquisition, to the extent they involve the NPS, would be limited to the acceptance of donations.

Develop agreements with other land management agencies and CALTRANS to maintain open space in critical wildlife habitat linkage areas. The level of monitoring the use of these wildlife connections would be increased.

A portion of the 1,200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail would be aligned through the Simi Hills area of the SMMNRA.

Moderate Intensity

An environmental education facility would be established at Solstice Canyon. Minor improvements would be made to previously disturbed areas to improve parking, restroom facilities and the outdoor classroom experience.

The Backbone Trail would be completed.

A facility would be located at Rancho Sierra Vista to provide more educational programs concerning contemporary and traditional Native American Indian culture. Programs would also be offered to interpret ranching history in the area.

High Intensity

A coastal education center would be developed at Leo Carrillo State Beach with exhibits on marine life and the culture of the Chumash. A 75-car parking lot is planned, and the California State Parks hopes that this facility would accommodate 200,000 visitors a year.

The California State University Channel Islands campus located at the mouth of Long Canyon near the western corner of the National Recreation Area would provide facilities for the northwest environmental research and education programs. An effort would be made to work cooperatively with the University and local planning jurisdictions to plan growth and protect the historic character and natural resources of the setting. Each alternative anticipates a research and information center within this complex.

The staging area at Cheeseboro Canyon would be expanded, and facilities improved.

Temescal Canyon Earth Adventure Camp would offer expanded educational day camp programs for greater Los Angeles area.

Alternatives
Actions Common to All Alternatives

Table 7

MANAGEMENT AREAS				
USE				
Five Management Areas	Resource Management, Character & Condition	Visitor Experience & Activities	Development	Management Activities
Low Intensity Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve natural and cultural resources of area. • Protect resources from impacts of visitors and facility development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow quiet enjoyment of natural sights and sounds. • Restrict activities to horseback riding, mountain biking and hiking on designated trails. • Use by day only. • Allow no pets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect resources, public safety. • Allow only harmonious development with natural setting. • Prohibit motorized equipment in designated wilderness areas . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect resources. • Close/revegetate some fire roads. • Close or re-route some non-historic trails. • Monitor resource deterioration. • Preserve cultural resources. • Allow compatible scientific research. • Manage fire to minimize landscape disturbance.
Moderate Intensity Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve natural and cultural resources of area. • Allow harmonious development with natural settings. • Provide only essential visitor services and facilities. • Preserve/rehabilitate historic structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect higher visitation/ frequent encounters with people. • Limit activities to hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking on designated trails. • Provide guided walks or self-guided trails. • Allow low impact camping and picnicking. • Permit commercial filming. • Allow pets on leashes in designated areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide essential visitor services (restrooms, water, trailhead parking). • Build boardwalks to protect resources where necessary. • Build picnic areas/ equestrian access sites. • Limit campground development. • Put utilities underground. • Restrict utility and fire roads for administrative use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect resources. • Manage visitor use/ recreational activities. • Maintain trails with motorized equipment. • Provide law enforcement. • Close or re-route some trails. • Maintain utility corridors/put utilities underground. • Manage fire to minimize landscape disturbance. • Minimize impacts from search and rescue missions/fire suppression.
High Intensity Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect frequent sights and sounds of people and development. • Protect resources from impacts of visitors with higher degree of infrastructure and facility development. • Harmonize facility development with natural and cultural settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect higher visitation/ frequent encounters with people and vehicles. • Develop parking areas for beaches or frequently used trails. • Provide structured interpretive and education programs or self-guided activities. • Create more interpretive exhibits. • Increase visitation to historic structures and cultural landscapes. • Allow overnight camping, including group camping. • Allow picnicking, swimming, surfing, kayaking. • Permit commercial filming. • Allow pets on leashes in designated areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide full visitor services (restrooms, water/potable water, trailhead parking, visitor orientation). • Encourage harmonious development to protect resources. • Use gravel, compacted gravel/soil or pavement for trails. • Build boardwalks as needed. • Use pavement or gravel for trailhead parking. • Develop campgrounds, interpretive overlooks, waysides, exhibits, self-guided interpretive trails, and appropriate public transportation areas (park and rides). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect resources. • Manage visitor use/ recreational activities. • Maintain trails with motorized equipment. • Close, re-route or revegetate some non-historic trails. • Close/revegetate non-essential roads. • Maintain utility corridors/put utilities underground. • Manage fire to minimize landscape disturbance. • Minimize impacts from search and rescue missions/fire suppression. • Permit emergency response staging.



Mission Canyon would offer a trailhead, toilets, parking and interpretive facilities.

Joint administration of National Park Service and California State Park operations would occur where feasible. All three agencies would share a common vision and a visitor/operations center that consolidates all resources, fosters cooperation, and increases efficiency.

Information management and telecommunication technology would be utilized to promote rapid, reliable and efficient internal park operations. Achieving sustainability in all park operations and development of park related facilities would result in cost savings and reduced impacts on park resources.

NPS would enter into a general agreement with CALTRANS to support the concept of encouraging use of other mass transit options instead of enlarging PCH or any of the other state routes through the SMMNRA.

Future “gateway” visitor centers would be designed to ease traffic problems at parking lots and to encourage ridership of recreational shuttle buses. Information would be available about transportation alternatives, and how to make transit connections to regional transit service.

NPS would provide transportation education as part of the regular interpretive programs at the park indicating how the use of alternative transportation is good for the SMMNRA and the region.

NPS would enter into a general agreement with the surrounding communities and other regional agencies to explore possible transit options to serve the SMMNRA and expanding existing service to include regular transit service on weekends. NPS would support neighboring communities to create park and ride facilities that would be used by transit operations serving the SMMNRA.

Transit operators, NPS and municipalities would pursue and provide transportation systems to meet the recreational needs of

the visitor. This could be accomplished by linking the park and ride facilities in the nearby communities to trail heads and other recreational destinations within the SMMNRA, and expanding transit operations to include regular weekend service.

CALTRANS and the city of Malibu would be encouraged to develop a policy of restricting roadside parking along PCH to encourage the use of off-street parking facilities for pedestrian safety and promote transit use.

Steelhead trout would be reintroduced into Solstice Creek.

Scenic Corridor

The draft GMP/EIS would support the use of lower speed limits and the development of additional scenic pullouts on routes designated as scenic corridors. Where practical, a greenway trail system would be developed that connects the pullouts and promotes pedestrian and bicycle use. Areas where this may be practical include portions of the Mulholland corridor and the western portion of PCH. The roadside environment along the scenic corridors would be improved to promote traffic safety while being consistent with the scenic character of the recreation area. This draft document supports the removal of street lighting, overhead power lines where possible and exotic landscape material.

Community Landscape

For areas identified as community landscapes, the NPS, CSP and SMMC would provide local decision-makers with the resource data and technical assistance necessary to maintain the unique character of these areas, consistent with the overall goals and objectives of this draft GMP/EIS. The approach to the management of community landscapes would be the same for all the alternatives and is not discussed further.

EDUCATIONAL THEMES COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The rich cultural and natural landscape, as well as the varied recreational features of the SMMNRA, offer tremendous possibilities for interpretation. The Santa Monica Mountains also provide a setting for a wide range of cultural, educational and research activities. This GMP includes general recommendations for the location and subject matter of such programs. Also addressed in the coming section on “Management Areas” is the level of the visitor’s educational experience which may involve a self-guided tour with low impact signs in the “Low Intensity” areas, or an overnight environmental education camp in the “High Intensity” areas.

The following themes would provide the basis for the educational opportunities outlined in the alternatives.

Ecosystems

The following are proposed interpretive themes regarding ecosystems in the SMMNRA:

- SMMNRA preserves an example of the rare, dynamic and diverse Mediterranean-type ecosystem.
- The combination of a transverse mountain range, seasonal rainfall, proximity to the ocean, and temperate latitude create the unique Mediterranean-type climate found in only four other locations in the world comprising less than three percent of the global land mass.
- Collective habitats from the mountain to the sea bring together a vast diversity of individual organisms and processes, which interact to create a unique and irreplaceable ecosystem.
- A biotic system acted upon by geology, climate and fire, both natural and human-influenced, results in an ever-changing landscape.

- Local and global human activities have had and would continue to have a significant impact on the integrity of Mediterranean-type ecosystems.
- The combination of climate and scenery has created an attractive place for people to settle, impacting the environment through urban encroachments, introduction of exotic plant and animal species, pollution and fragmentation and loss of habitat.
- Through education, restoration, mitigation and wise use of the land, the habitats of this unique ecosystem can be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Long term, worldwide human alterations in Mediterranean-type ecosystems make undisturbed examples, like those found in SMMNRA, nationally and globally significant.

Culture and History

The following are proposed interpretive themes regarding culture and history in the SMMNRA:

- SMMNRA preserves a record of thousands of years of human interactions with the area.
- Human spirit and imagination have allowed people in this region to reach



Development in the Santa Monica Mountains continues as land prices prohibit purchase by public agencies.





Pacific Coast Highway and the City of Santa Monica in the shadow of the Santa Monica Mountains.

- beyond their geographic limitations (e.g., Chumash trading networks, film industry, aerospace industry, water distribution, and transportation.).
- This region provides a global perspective on the continuing relationships between the land and human history from past to present to future.
- Geography, local and national events, technological advances, and changing attitudes and perceptions influence the evolving cultural landscape of this region.

Recreation and Education

The following are proposed interpretive themes regarding recreation and education in the SMMNRA:

- SMMNRA provides a variety of educational and recreational opportunities.
- Damage to recreational resources would threaten visitor opportunities.

- The SMMNRA provides a diverse, pleasing, natural and cultural landscape where visitors can experience personal solitude, contemplation, and inspiration.
- Education programs instill a sense of cultural and environmental responsibility.
- Learning about natural and cultural history in a park setting proves to be more relevant than in a classroom setting.
- SMMNRA is a gateway between the urban environment and the natural world.

Urban Interface

The following are proposed interpretive themes regarding urban interface in the SMMNRA region:

- SMMNRA can be described as an island of parklands buffeted by urban development and urban challenges.
- Balance of development and the need for preservation is necessary for the continued existence of both.

- Education is essential to ensure an awareness of natural and cultural resources to foster an environmental ethic.
- The existence of intact habitat within the Santa Monica Mountains faces increasing challenges from non-compatible human activities within and beyond its geographic boundaries.
- Cooperation between public and private organizations is essential in guaranteeing the future of parks that must be well managed, accessible to all and enhances the quality of life for all.
- In a world of diminishing biological diversity, the national recreation area provides an extraordinary global window to promote local and worldwide awareness of the value of wise use, responsible development and preservation of parklands.

No Action Alternative

BASELINE CONDITIONS

The no action alternative provides a baseline for evaluating the environmental effects of the other alternatives. Under this alternative (the status quo) current management practices would continue in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Park managers would continue to provide for visitor use and would respond to natural and cultural resource management concerns according to current policy and legal requirements and as funding allowed. The natural resource inventory and monitoring program would be continued and expanded if possible. The park would continue to protect and maintain known archeological sites and restore or adaptively use certain historic structures on lands under public ownership. Inventories for archeological sites would continue on

a site-by-site basis following compliance procedures. In 2001, the park will begin a three-year project to produce an historic resources study of NPS lands. In addition to providing historic information about the park, the study will allow the park to comply with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act by leading to the location, inventory and nomination of properties that appear to be eligible to the National Register. There would be no change in management direction. The educational outreach programs to the schools would be expanded as funding allows. Table 7 illustrates the current management practices and areas within the SMMNRA.

Under the no action alternative, there would be a continuation of existing trends as outlined in the 1982 *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan* and the state park general plans for *Point Mugu State Park*, *Leo Carrillo State Beach*, *Malibu Lagoon State Beach*, *Malibu Creek State Park*, *Topanga State Park*, and *Will Rogers State Historic Park*. State and national park unit management and operations would continue as they are.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity

Approximately 30 percent of the parklands could be considered a low intensity area. Wilderness preserve areas and areas of irreplaceable resources, important biological and archeological areas, critical habitat and significant landform features would be protected if within public ownership.

Moderate Intensity

Approximately 60 percent of the park could be considered in a medium impact zone. The Backbone Trail would be completed.



High Intensity

Approximately 10 percent of the total parklands receive extremely heavy use. The proposed "Gateway to Santa Monica Mountains Visitor Center" at the Leo Carrillo State Beach and the SMMNRA Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks would provide environmental education and visitor orientation.

The California State Parks Headquarters would remain in its current location in Malibu Creek State Park, as would the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy offices at the Ramirez Canyon Park.

Scenic Corridor

Under this alternative Mulholland Highway would remain the only scenic corridor.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of mitigation measures for the no action alternative:

Soils and Geology

Soil erosion control measures, such as sedimentation retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques, would be included in all facility development-specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the planned activities.

New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones. New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.

All grading and construction plans would be reviewed by qualified professionals for geologic and geotechnical review prior to approval.

Geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations would be conducted by qualified geologists prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern. Such areas include projects involving hillside terrain, proximity to active or potentially active faults, proximity to landslide areas, and areas of possible liquefaction.

Water Resources

A construction storm water management plan would be prepared by a qualified individual for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance. The plan would consider best management practices such as temporary on-site water treatments, which include silt fences and sedimentation ponds.

Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.

A qualified geologist within the administering agencies would conduct a soils and engineering evaluation to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.

The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce pollutants reaching waterways wherever feasible.

Flood Plains

During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, a qualified engineer would conduct an engineering evaluation to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.

Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event. NPS staff would patrol use areas within the flood plain prior to and during storms to assure that these areas are not occupied. In addition, various warning systems would also be utilized. For example, Ventura County Flood Control District (VCFCDD) has operated a flood warning system since February 1979. The system is called "ALERT", an acronym for Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time, which was developed by the National Weather Service.

Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.

Biological Resources and Wetlands

Undisturbed native vegetation would be avoided when new facilities are sited.

All grading and construction plans would be reviewed prior to approval by qualified administering agency technical staff.

Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species by a qualified biologist, and appropriate fuel management zones would be maintained around developed structures.

Erosion control measures would be considered and implemented for surface disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.

Pre-project surveys for sensitive species would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to project implementation in the appropriate season for listed species, as well as other species of federal or state concern. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.

The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands)

and/or CDFG as appropriate during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat might be affected during a proposed action.

Surface disturbing activities in or in close proximity to, sensitive vegetative resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat) would be monitored during construction by a qualified biologist.

Best management practices would be implemented during construction.

Construction monitoring would be provided by a qualified biologist in areas supporting sensitive wildlife resources.

The administering agencies would implement projects that would avoid wetlands, other sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas through careful project siting.

A qualified biologist within the administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their affects on habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.

New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.

Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored where feasible.

Paleontology

When planning new facilities, modified facilities and fuel management that requires grading, a qualified professional would compare grading and construction plans with geologic maps during administering agencies geological and geotechnical review to determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments.

If excavation occurs in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, then the administering agencies would hire a qualified paleontologic monitor during excavation.



If fossils were discovered during grading or construction, these activities would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until the fossils have been removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.

The administering agencies would implement public education regarding the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.

Cultural Resources

The interpretive/educational outreach of SMMNRA, which includes conducting programs for school children, would be enhanced as funding allows, incorporating more information and values about cultural resources in the curriculum.

An historic resources study will begin in 2001 and be completed in 2003. It will identify significant historic sites, structures and cultural landscapes within NPS lands.

To ensure that adequate consideration and protection are accorded archeological resources, record searches and, where appropriate, archeological surveys would precede all ground disturbing activities on recreation area lands. Archeological and Native American Indian monitoring would occur by a qualified archeologist and appropriate Native American Indian representation where ground disturbance is expected in the vicinity of known or suspected cultural resources. If cultural materials were unearthed during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified, their significance assessed and any necessary mitigation undertaken.

All preservation and rehabilitation efforts, as well as daily, cyclical, and seasonal maintenance, would continue to

be conducted in accordance with the *National Park Service's Management Policies* (1988) and *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (1998), and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

Historic structure reports, condition assessments, and plans for the rehabilitation of historic structures would be developed by qualified architects well-versed in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

Actions undertaken to minimize erosion along historic roads and trails would be implemented in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995) and would preserve the integrity of these cultural resources.

The administering agencies shall continue to inventory cultural resources in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470).

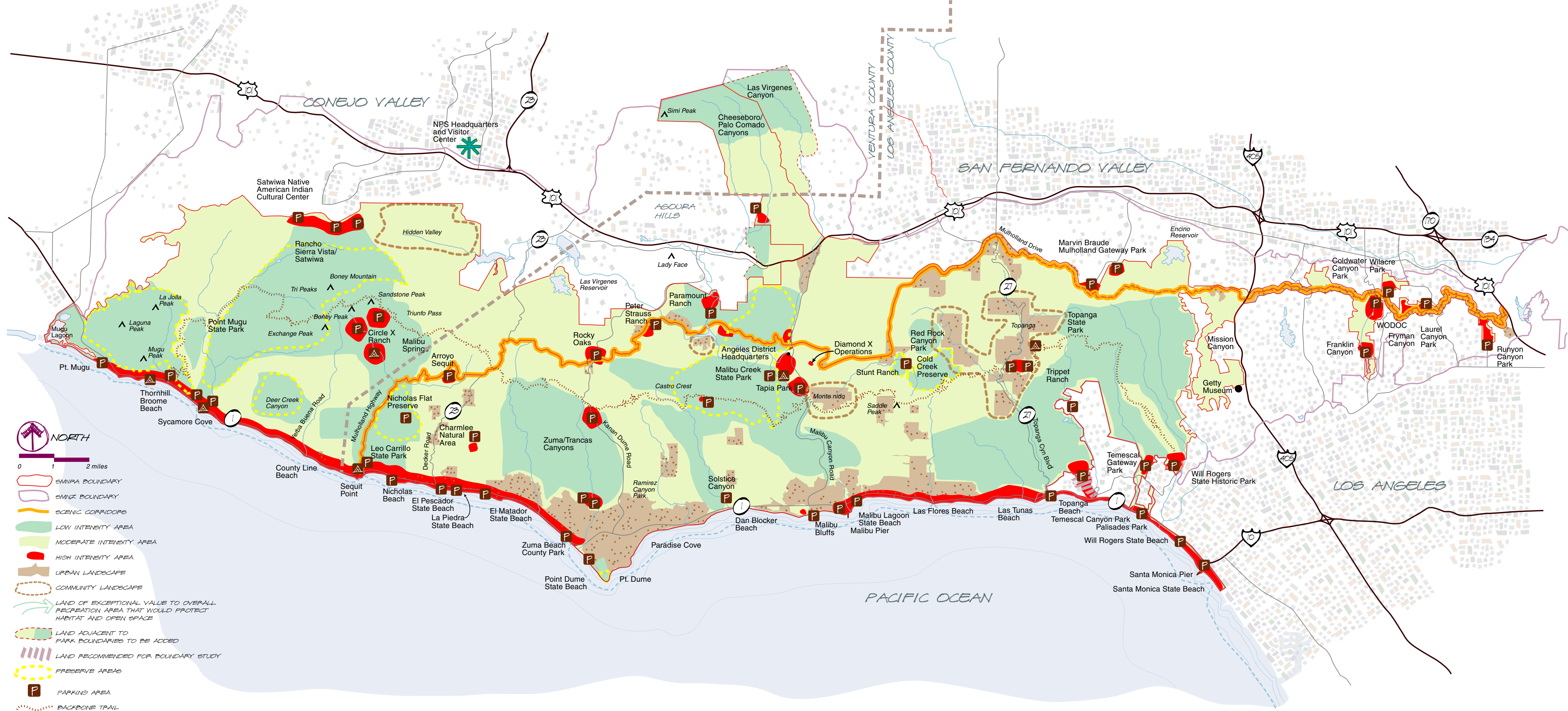
A qualified archeologist would conduct a cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and assessment program preceding all trail construction. If resources were identified, mitigation measures such as avoidance or archaeological data recovery would be implemented.

Native American Indian groups would be consulted to determine appropriate mitigation measures regarding potential impacts to cultural landscapes and places of traditional or sacred significance.

To the extent feasible, trails would be constructed to avoid or minimize impacts to the traditional values of such places.

Trails created by mammal tracking activities that intersect constructed trails would have posted signs educating or restricting use by visitors.

New structures to be constructed within historic districts, or near historic structures will be designed by qualified architects



MANAGEMENT AREAS:

LOW INTENSITY AREA

Emphasis would be on natural and cultural resource preservation and a sense of being immersed in a natural and wild landscape away from the comforts and conveniences of "civilization." The sights and sounds of nature in this area would be more prevalent than that of humans. There would be no overnight uses. Hiking, biking, and horseback riding would only be on designated trails.

MODERATE INTENSITY AREA

Emphasis would be predominantly on the natural environment, but there would also be a sense of being near the familiarity, comforts, and convenience of "civilization." Facility development would harmonize with the natural setting and be based on the principles of sustainable development as described under the parkwide goals. Hiking, biking, and horseback riding on designated trails, low-impact camping, and self-guided and guided interpretive walks would be acceptable activities. Moderate use areas would act as an insulating buffer around urban development.

HIGH INTENSITY AREA

Emphasis would be on facility development that harmonizes with natural and cultural settings. There would be a sense of being surrounded by the scenic landscape and cultural resources of a unit of the national park system. The sights and sounds of people and development within and outside the area would be readily apparent. There would be frequent encounters with vehicles, other types of visitors, and park staff. Activities would include hiking, biking and horseback riding on designated trails, self-guided trails, visitor orientation, camping, educational activities and study programs, picnicking, interpretive walks, events and festivals, day camps, and community activities.

SCENIC CORRIDOR

Emphasis would be on roads through scenic landscapes and cultural resources of the park. People would experience the park by driving on scenic roads. During some seasons, days, and times of day there would be extensive interaction with other vehicles. Surrounding new development would harmonize with the scenic quality of the landscapes and be based on the principles of sustainable development. Environmental impacts from road development, management, and visitor use would be mitigated. Activities such as picnicking; self-guided tours; viewing the park by car, motorcycle, or bus, bikes, and hiking along segregated trails or lanes would be encouraged.

COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE

Emphasis would be on private development that has unique character, architecture, or landscape and that deserves special recognition. However, the designation does not suggest any type of management other than technical assistance.

Figure 5:

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CALIFORNIA

INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS,
AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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well-versed in the Secretary of the Interior standards to ensure the highest level of design compatibility.

Visitor Experience

Guide visitors to high use areas.

Encourage visitor use during less busy times.

Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.

Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

LAND USE

The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management areas within the SMMNRA.

In areas where high use intensity management areas overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.

POPULATION, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT

No mitigation measures are required.

TRANSPORTATION

Mitigation would include the promotion and development of transit operations and ridesharing programs, which would help reduce the number of vehicles using the commuter corridors through the SMMNRA.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.

The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.

The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's Department to ensure adequate police protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.

New facilities should provide additional on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.

Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.

The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified by the administering agencies during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity should be confirmed for each facility before construction.

Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.

The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite power should be considered using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.

Preferred Alternative

CONCEPT

This alternative incorporates the exceptional elements of the following three alternatives. Significant natural and cultural resources would be protected while providing compatible recreation and educational opportunities to a diverse public.

Approximately 80 percent of parkland would be designated low intensity. Moderate intensity areas would act as a buffer around



urban areas and scenic corridors in some instances. Small pockets of concentrated high intensity activities would be located in non-sensitive or previously developed areas. Figure 6 illustrates the management areas and facilities proposed under the preferred alternative.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity

As stated above, approximately 80 percent of the park area would be designated low intensity. Facilities would be maintained in a relatively primitive manner to preserve the visitor experience. The only modifications to this environment within the SMMNRA boundary would be for the purposes of protecting the resources from the impacts of use. Historical and ethnographic resources would be preserved and protected. A boundary study would be suggested for the western escarpment of the Santa Monica Mountains to buffer some of the impacts of the CSUCI expansion and associated development on the western edge of the park. In the north, a boundary adjustment study would be conducted in the Simi Hills area northwest of Cheeseboro, north and west of Yerba Buena Road and northeast of Las Virgenes Canyons respectively to preserve wildlife corridors, habitat and critical open space.

NPS parklands north and west of Circle X Ranch would be inventoried for potential addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Watersheds and coastal resources would be protected and preserved through coordinated watershed management practices. Lagoons, coastal wetlands and marine interface areas would receive focused protection and management through the use of general agreements with land use regulatory agencies, research agencies and

university research. Steelhead trout re-introduction would be initiated in Solstice Canyon. Steelhead trout enhancement would take place in Malibu Creek and Arroyo Sequit watersheds, and possibly Topanga Creek. Lagoons, coastal wetlands and interface areas would receive focused attention.

Simi Hills would be managed to maximize biological habitat while preserving ethnographic historic sites and cultural landscapes.

Moderate Intensity

Approximately 15 percent of the area within the park boundary would be moderate intensity. Boundary adjustment studies would be proposed for Las Virgenes Reservoir, Ladyface, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, and Stone Canyon to protect critical open space and preserve wildlife corridors.

With more than a thousand archeological sites documented within the SMMNRA boundary, a nomination package would be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places to designate an archeological district.

High Intensity

Approximately 5 percent of area within the park boundary would be "high intensity."

The development of the following park facilities would occur:

- **Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center**
would be located at the western most end of the park off PCH. This facility would emphasize use of sustainable energy and materials through a working education demonstration. Mugu Lagoon, managed by the U.S. Navy, is the largest coastal wetland in California outside the San Francisco Bay area. This facility would provide an important interpretation point for the estuarine ecosystem. The proposed

site for the education center would be located in an already disturbed area off of PCH. A boardwalk around the lagoon would allow visitors an opportunity to experience the lagoon system. This location allows beautiful views of the coast, an unspoiled view of the mountains, and a panorama of the lagoon.

- **Circle X Ranch**– would become a primitive overnight camp with expanded facilities for group camping. The upper levels of the site would be redesigned and re-developed to offer a quality, accessible camping experience. Sustainable architectural design practices would be used and resources would be protected in the siting of any new structures. This premise would be true with any development. The facilities would also offer improved access to backcountry recreation trails, including the Backbone Trail.
- **The campground at Leo Carrillo State Beach** – would be rehabilitated to integrate the campground with natural riparian processes. Interpretation of the riparian setting would be provided to educate visitors on the sensitive condition of this coastal landmark.
- **Paramount Ranch**– would include facilities for a film history education center and museum. Film production would be encouraged as a means to preserve a traditional use associated with the facility. The western town set at Paramount Ranch and the surrounding landscape would be adaptively reused for filming. Parking and circulation would be improved to accommodate visitation while protecting the cultural landscape.
- **White Oak Farm**– located near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road would offer interpretive and education programs.
- **The barn at Rancho Sierra**– Vista would be adaptively reused for environmental education.
- **A scenic coastal boat tour**– would offer visitors a unique view of the coastline and mountain scenery. Docking points would be located at the Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Pier.
- **A visitor education center** would be located at Malibu Bluffs. This location would serve as a staging area and orientation for park facilities such as the Adamson House, Malibu Lagoon and Malibu Pier.
- **A jointly operated administration, environmental and cultural education center** would be located at the Gillette Ranch site near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road. The NPS and CSP would house operations, curatorial and management functions at this location. Some of the existing buildings would be adapted for classroom use.
- **415 PCH (Marion Davies Home)**, located near the Santa Monica Pier, would serve as an eastern gateway to the national recreation area and provide visitor orientation to the park. Exhibits would interpret the evolution of southern California coastal culture, the history of PCH and the terminus of Historic Route 66. Congress recently passed legislation to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor.
- **A visitor information site** would be located within the Los Angeles International Airport to provide orientation to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and serve as a retail sales site for park merchandise.
- **The William O'Douglas Outdoor Center**– located at Franklin Canyon would offer an expanded educational day camp program for Los Angeles County schools.





View of Malibu Canyon and the Pacific Ocean (NPS photo).

- **A visitor information site** would be located in downtown Los Angeles at El Pueblo, providing park orientation, information and an introduction of recreation and learning opportunities in the mountains to inner city populations.
- **The lands indicated on the map**, on the northern and western edges of the park are intended to act as buffers against further development to protect habitat and wildlife corridors. The preferred protection strategy would be cooperative agreements rather than fee acquisition. The NPS would work cooperatively with the Department of the Navy to protect the Mugu Lagoon area.

Scenic Corridor

Scenic corridors are designated for Mulholland Highway, PCH, and Malibu Canyon Road. This route comprises a scenic loop with several destination points, which would be an opportunity for an interpretive tour operated by a concession. These roadways are significant for their visual quality and as recreation transportation routes. A tour shuttle would travel Mulholland, PCH, and Malibu Canyon Road, connecting points of interest such as the Adamson

House, Malibu Lagoon, Gillette Ranch, White Oak Ranch, Paramount Ranch, Leo Carrillo State Beach and Point Dume State Preserve in a circular route. A shuttle service could serve these multiple points of interest as well as dropping and picking up hikers and surfers at designated points along this loop.

Mulholland would be cooperatively managed to emphasize its continuity, historic significance, and scenic values.

The establishment of agreements and design review boards would ensure that proposed developments are evaluated and found to be consistent with the scenic values of the corridors.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of the mitigation measures for the preferred alternative:

Soils and Geology

Soil erosion control measures such as sediment retention ponds, silt fencing or slope stabilization techniques would be included in all facility development-specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the planned activities. New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones.

New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.

A qualified individual within the administering agencies would review all grading and construction plans prior to approval.

A qualified geologist would conduct geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern. Such areas include projects involving hillside terrain, proximity to active or potentially active faults, proximity to landslide areas and areas of possible liquefaction.

Water Resources

A construction storm water management plan would be prepared by a qualified individual for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance. The plan would consider best management practices such as temporary on-site water treatments, which include silt fences and sedimentation ponds.

Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.

The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce pollutants reaching waterways wherever feasible.

Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens to groundwater or surface water. A soils and engineering evaluation would be conducted by a qualified geologist to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.

If on-site surface or groundwater would be used as a potable water source for new camp facilities, the administering agencies would study sources of drinking water for camps to avoid the over-extraction of water.

Flood Plains

During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, an engineering evaluation would be conducted by a qualified engineer to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.

Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event. NPS staff should patrol use areas within the flood plain prior to and during storms to assure that these areas are not occupied. In

addition, various warning systems would also be utilized. For example, VCFCD has operated a flood warning system since February 1979. The system is called "ALERT", an acronym for Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time, which was developed by the National Weather Service.

Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.

Biological Resources and Wetlands

The administering agencies would avoid undisturbed native vegetation and wetlands through careful siting of facilities.

New development would be sited in previously disturbed areas; thereby avoiding or minimizing impacts on undisturbed native vegetation.

A qualified staff member would submit all grading and construction plans to the administering agencies for review prior to approval.

Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species, and appropriate fuel management zones would be maintained around developed structures.

Erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, and slope stabilization techniques would be implemented for surface disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.

Pre-project surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to project implementation in the appropriate season for listed species, as well as other species of federal or state concern. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.

The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands) and CDFG during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat may be affected during a proposed action.

Monitoring by an qualified biologist would be required for surface disturbing activities in, or in close proximity to, sensitive vegetative and wildlife resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat).

Best management practices would be implemented during construction. For example, if construction would occur during the rainy season, temporary sedimentation retention basins could be required on some projects. In addition, servicing of construction vehicles could be prohibited within 100 feet of riparian corridors, or disturbances of native vegetation or the root zones of oak trees could be avoided by staking construction staging areas.

Fire clearance zones would be incorporated into the planning of developments.

Educational efforts, such as posting fire hazard signs, would be effective in reducing the likelihood of visitor caused fires, and their resultant impacts.

If vegetation is lost or disturbed from any visitor-related activity, the area would be rehabilitated or revegetated with species from an appropriate native plant palette from local seed/plant sources.

The administering agencies would offset impacts from new development by avoiding wetlands, other sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas through careful project siting.

The administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their effects on habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.

New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.

Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored.

Habitat connectivity would be maintained through the implementation

of sufficiently wide (greater than 400 feet) habitat linkages between major blocks of habitat.

The feasibility of retrofitting wildlife underpasses where primary roads intersect with wildlife movement areas within the park would be considered in the NEPA/CEQA documentation prepared for projects that may affect habitat linkages within their sphere of influence.

Paleontology

A qualified individual within the administering agencies would determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments during geological and geotechnical review of grading and construction plans.

If excavation were to occur in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, a qualified paleontologist would be present to monitor the site during excavation.

If fossils were discovered, construction would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until they were removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.

The administering agencies would implement public education regarding the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.

Cultural Resources

A qualified archeologist would complete a cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, prior to the finalization of plans associated with the development of the Point Mugu Visitor Center, to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. If such deposits were identified, mitigation through avoidance or data recovery would

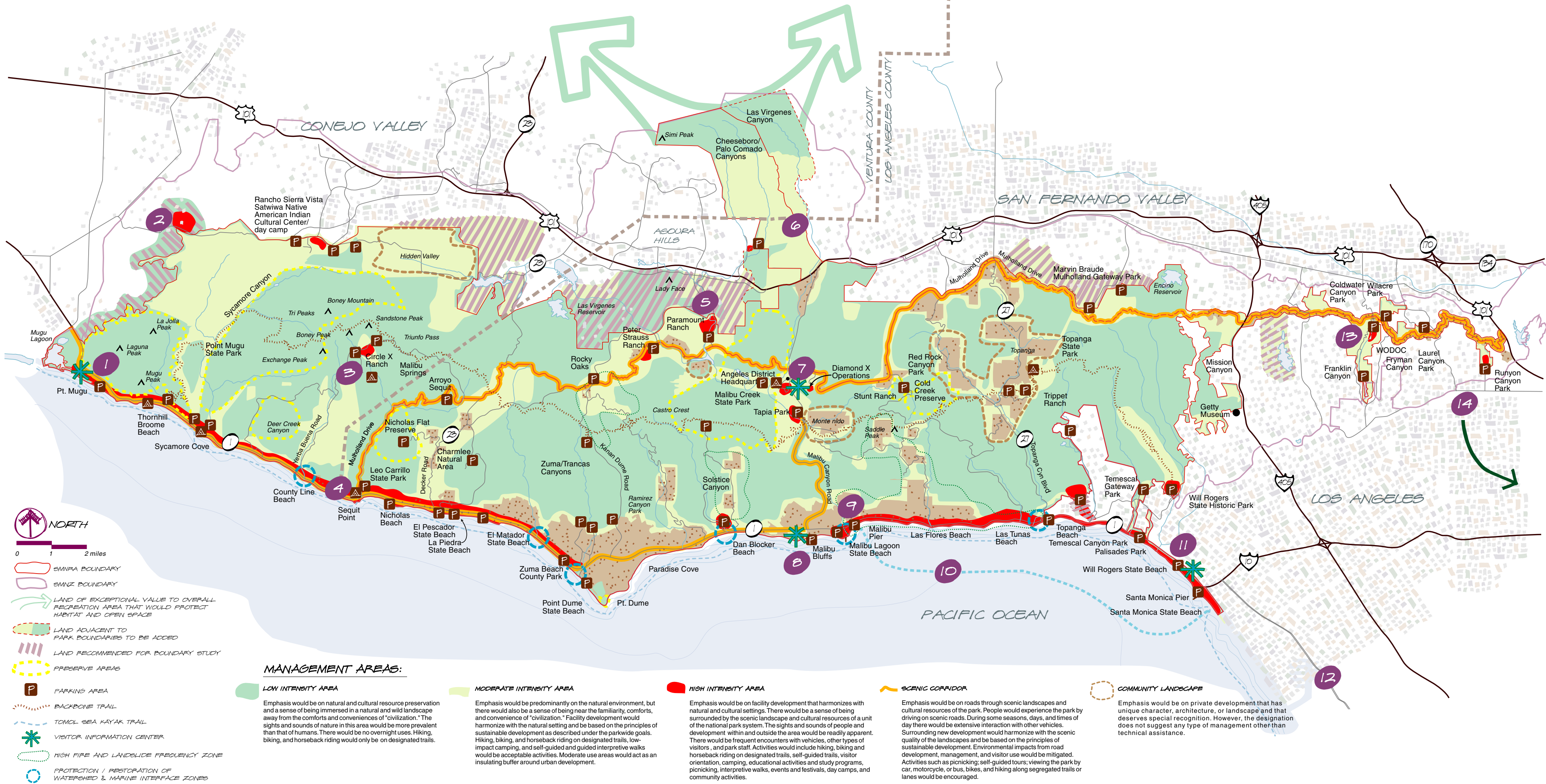


Figure 6:
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CALIFORNIA
INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
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be undertaken. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and appropriate Native American Indian representation would also accompany any ground-disturbing activities. If unknown resources were identified at this time, construction would be halted until the significance of the find is determined.

To assist with visitor education, the Point Mugu Visitor Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of *Muwu* to the cultural history of the area.

Prior to the implementation of construction, the area of potential effect (APE) for cultural resources would be defined, a record review conducted, and a pedestrian survey completed by a qualified archeologist. Mitigation measures, including avoidance or data recovery, would be proposed if resources are identified, and the SHPO would be afforded the opportunity to consult on measures for cultural resources protection and mitigation of adverse impacts.

Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and an appropriate tribal monitor would accompany any ground disturbing construction. In the case of any unanticipated discoveries, all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity would be stopped until the significance of the find is determined.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Leo Carrillo State Beach property. Specifically, an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program would be carried out, followed by mitigation if necessary. Mitigation measures would include avoidance or archeological data recovery.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch, the

Gillette Ranch and 415 PCH (Marion Davies Home). Specifically, an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program would be carried out, followed by mitigation if necessary. Mitigation measures could include avoidance, data recovery through Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) documentation, reconstruction using historically appropriate materials, or similar measures. Those measures would be called out in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

At the Gillette Ranch and William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom (WODOC), monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would accompany any ground-disturbing activities. In the event that unidentified resources are discovered, construction would be halted until the significance of the find is evaluated. Concerned historic preservation groups would be consulted and their input incorporated into the management plan for this facility.

All road improvements would be preceded by a cultural resources investigation conducted by an historical landscape architect or landscape historian, inclusive of inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment. If resources were identified, mitigation measures would include avoidance or data recovery. Opportunities to protect the resource from other impacts could include traffic volume control, parking control, and expanded transit options. As a result, these impacts could be reduced to negligible levels.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995) would be followed for any projects effecting historic or cultural resources at Paramount Ranch, Peter Strauss Ranch, Rancho Sierra Vista and Solstice Canyon.



Visitor Experience

Guide visitors to high use areas.

Encourage visitor use during less busy times.

Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.

Improve existing trails, and create new trails and adequate camping areas in moderate intensity use areas.

Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

LAND USE

The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management areas within the SMMNRA.

In areas where high use intensity management areas overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.

POPULATION, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT

No mitigation measures are required.

TRANSPORTATION

It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.

The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.

The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's Departments to ensure adequate police

protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.

Additional facilities should provide on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.

Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.

The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified by the administering agencies during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity should be confirmed for each facility before construction.

Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.

The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite power should be encouraged using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.

Preservation Alternative

CONCEPT

Emphasis would be on preserving all natural and cultural systems. Some park-related development and uses would be removed, and trails would be retained. Some trails in sensitive areas would be re-routed. Some fire roads would be eliminated. Parking would be constructed with gravel or other pervious material wherever possible in order to preserve the natural scenery. The Mediterranean ecosystem could improve in condition and flourish into the future. More interpretive exhibits would provide people

with opportunities to understand and value the ecosystem. As technology and cost permit, visitors would have the opportunity to visit, explore and learn about the Santa Monica Mountains through a variety of virtual media “visitor centers” and interactive web sites. Visitors could explore scientific archives, chat with an interpretive ranger and other park visitors about recreation opportunities and participate in virtual recreation experiences. Among the unique opportunities that could be developed as virtual experiences are surfing in Malibu, aerial tours of the mountains and coastline, tours of caves and waterfalls, wildflower tours and tours of the historic motion picture productions. These alternative experiences and information sites would serve to preserve resources by increasing appreciation and knowledge while reducing visitor disturbances in sensitive resource locations. Figure 7 illustrates the management areas and facilities proposed as part of the preservation alternative.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity

Approximately 80 percent of the parklands would be in a low intensity area. Developed areas would not be expanded and existing facilities would be maintained in a relatively primitive manner to preserve the visitor experience. Non-historic disturbed areas, or those areas without ethnographic value, would be restored to natural conditions. Modifications to the environment would be for the purpose of protecting the natural and cultural resources from the impacts of use. Modifications to existing facilities may be undertaken to protect resources, for public safety, or to promote the primitive character of the visitor experience.

NPS parklands north and west of Circle X Ranch would be inventoried for

potential addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The western escarpment of the Santa Monica Mountains adjacent to the Oxnard Plains, Triunfo Canyon and Ladyface Mountain to the east of Las Virgenes Reservoir, and the area north and west of Yerba Buena Road would be proposed for subsequent study for addition to the SMMNRA. If Congress adds these areas, they would be designated by this plan as “low intensity” areas. These areas are believed to be critical additions to core habitats and/or potential wildlife corridors, and would provide buffers against development, but could only be added through donation.

Watersheds and coastal resources would be protected and preserved through watershed management practices and improvements. Lagoons, coastal wetlands and marine interface areas would receive focused protection and management through the use of general agreements with land use regulatory agencies, research agencies and university research.

Unlike other alternatives that provide for steelhead trout reintroduction in Solstice Creek, this alternative would expand steelhead reintroduction to Calleguas Creek. There would be steelhead trout enhancement in Malibu, Solstice and Arroyo Sequit watersheds.

The eastern portion of the Mugu Lagoon would be recommended for immediate transfer from the Department of Defense to the National Park Service.

Simi Hills would be managed to maximize biological habitat while preserving ethnographic and historic sites.

Moderate Intensity

A little more than 15 percent of parklands would be considered moderate intensity areas. These areas would act as buffers for



adjacent development. These lands would provide opportunities for the majority of the dispersed recreational use with multi-use trails, with only the essential visitor services such as trailhead parking with gravel or permeable surfaces, restrooms and limited numbers of low impact camping areas. Moderate intensity areas surround and filter in and out of developed areas. Boundary adjustment studies are recommended at Conejo Valley, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, and the area east of Hidden Valley and Stone Canyon. These lands are required to protect critical core habitat and provide a spatial buffer to adjacent urban development. Studies would be conducted to determine the exact configuration of these boundary adjustments.

A boundary adjustment study would also be initiated to include the southeast quadrant of Calleguas Creek watershed within the national recreation area. The boundary adjustment would address the protection of the watershed as a wildlife corridor and wetland resource.

The Morrison House would be rehabilitated to reflect the historic ranching period. The cultural landscape around the house would be preserved.

High Intensity

A little less than 5 percent of the parklands would receive a high level of use. These areas would be located on the road interfaces of the park in areas that already receive extensive use, are disturbed or densely populated.

- **Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center** would be located at the western-most end of the park off PCH. Mugu Lagoon, managed by the U.S. Navy, is the largest coastal wetland in California outside the San Francisco Bay area. This facility would act as the western gateway and visitor orientation to the park and would provide an important interpretation point for the

estuarine ecosystem. The proposed site for the education center would be located in an already disturbed area off PCH. A boardwalk into the lagoon would allow visitors an opportunity to experience the lagoon system. This location allows exceptional views of the coast, an unspoiled view of the mountains, and a panorama of the lagoon.

- **The overnight use at Leo Carrillo State Beach, Malibu Creek State Park and Point Mugu State Park**— would remain.
- **The campground at Leo Carrillo State Beach** would be rehabilitated to integrate the campground with natural riparian processes. Interpretation of the riparian setting would be provided to educate visitors on the sensitive condition of this coastal area. The creek would be re-contoured to take a more meandering natural route through the canyon and a more natural system of erosion control would be constructed. The campsites would be redesigned to fall on either side of the creek.
- **Paramount Ranch**— would include facilities for a film history center and an administrative center. The western town set would be returned to its historic character and the historic landscape restored. Parking and circulation would be improved to accommodate visitation while protecting the historic landscape.
- **A jointly operated administration, environmental and cultural education center** would be located at the Gillette Ranch site near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road. The NPS and CSP would house operations, curatorial and management functions at this location. Existing historic buildings would be restored and other buildings would be adapted for classroom use. The education emphasis would be associated with cultural resources and fine arts.

- **There would be a visitor center at Malibu Bluffs.** – This facility would be jointly operated by the NPS and CSP and would provide a general SMMNRA orientation and staging site for visitors to Malibu Lagoon, Malibu Pier, and the Adamson House.
- **The William O'Douglas Outdoor Center** located at Franklin Canyon would offer an expanded educational day camp program for Los Angeles area schools.
- **Pictographs**— would be recreated by Native American specialists for educational purposes near areas where there is high visitation.

Scenic Corridor

An interior loop including PCH could be designated as a scenic tour route capable of connecting unique scenic and cultural sites for visitor interpretation and education. A shuttle service could serve these multiple points of interest as well as dropping and picking up hikers and surfers at designated points along this loop. The loop would consist of Malibu Canyon Road, Mulholland Highway to Sequit Point where it intersects with PCH, and east along PCH to the point of beginning at Malibu Bluffs.

In addition, that portion of PCH from Point Mugu to Sequit Point, as well as the entire length of Mulholland Highway, would also be designated as a scenic corridor.

The establishment of general agreements and design review boards would ensure that proposed developments are evaluated for consistency with the scenic values of the corridors.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of mitigation measures for the preservation alternative:

Soils and Geology

Soil erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be included in all facility development-specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the planned activities. New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones.

New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.

All grading and construction plans would be reviewed by qualified technicians within the administering agencies for geologic and geotechnical review prior to approval.

A qualified geologist would conduct geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern. Such areas include projects involving hillside terrain, proximity to active or potentially active faults, and areas of possible liquefaction.

Water Resources

A construction storm water management plan would be prepared for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance. The plan would consider best management practices such as temporary on-site water treatments, silt fences and sedimentation ponds. Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.

The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce or prevent pollutants from reaching waterways wherever feasible.

Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens



to groundwater and surface water. A qualified engineer would conduct a soils and engineering evaluation to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.

Flood Plains

During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, an engineering evaluation would be conducted by qualified engineers to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.

Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event. NPS staff should patrol use areas within the flood plain prior to and during storms to assure that these areas are not occupied. In addition, various warning systems would also be utilized. For example, VCFCF has operated a flood warning system since February 1979. The system is called "ALERT", an acronym for Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time, which was developed by the National Weather Service.

Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.

Biological Resources and Wetlands

Facilities would be sited and kept to previously disturbed native vegetation areas. All grading and construction plans would be submitted to the qualified administering agency staff for review prior to approval.

Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species, and would maintain appropriate fire-suppression zones around developed structures.

Erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be implemented for surface-disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.

Pre-project surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to project implementation in the appropriate season for listed species, as well as other species of federal or state concern. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.

The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands) and CDFG during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat might be affected during a proposed action.

Monitoring by a qualified biologist would be implemented for surface-disturbing activities in or in close proximity to, sensitive vegetative or wildlife resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat).

Best management practices would be implemented during construction.

Fire clearance zones would be incorporated into the planning of developments.

Educational efforts, such as posting fire hazard signs, would be implemented to reduce the likelihood of visitor-caused fires, and their resultant impacts.

If vegetation is lost or disturbed from any activity, the area would be rehabilitated or revegetated with species from an appropriate native plant palette.

The administering agencies would carefully site facilities to avoid sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas.

The administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their effects on wetlands, other habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.

New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and

individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.

Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored.

Habitat connectivity would be maintained by establishing sufficiently wide (greater than 400 feet) habitat linkages between major blocks of habitat.

The administering agencies would consider the feasibility of retrofitting wildlife underpasses where primary roads intersect with wildlife movement areas within the recreation area in NEPA documentation prepared for projects that might affect habitat linkages within their sphere of influence.

Paleontology

The administering agencies would determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments during geological and geotechnical review of grading and construction plans.

If excavation occurs in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, a qualified paleontologist would be present to monitor the site during excavation.

If fossils were discovered, construction would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until they were removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.

The administering agencies would implement public education regarding the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.

Cultural Resources

All construction or revegetation projects involving ground disturbance would be preceded by a cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program conducted by a qualified cultural resources advisor. If necessary, mitigation measures,

including avoidance or data recovery, would be developed and implemented.

A cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist would precede all ground-disturbing activities. If cultural resources were identified, consultation under Section 106 will be initiated and will include not only SHPO but concerned individuals, groups and tribes in order to reduce the potential impacts and, if necessary, mitigate them.

Management plans developed or amended to accommodate overnight uses in the vicinity of historic settlements would be reviewed by the qualified staff for conformance with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations regarding cultural resources. If necessary, these plans would incorporate measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts to cultural resources. Such measures might include restrictions on access, signage, visitor education, or data recovery.

A cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, would be completed by a qualified archeologist prior to the finalization of plans associated with the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center, to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. If necessary, mitigation through avoidance or data recovery would be undertaken. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a representative Native American Indian monitor would also accompany any ground-disturbing activities. To assist with visitor education, the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of *Muwu* to the cultural history of the area.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA would be required for all rehabilitation actions that effect historic or cultural resources at Leo Carrillo State Beach.



Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch and the Morrison House property. Specifically, an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program would be carried out, followed by mitigation if necessary. Mitigation measures could include avoidance, data recovery through Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) documentation, reconstruction using historically appropriate materials, or similar measures, in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

A qualified archeologist would complete a cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, prior to the finalization of plans associated with the administration and education center at the Gillette Ranch facility, the WODOC and the Malibu Bluffs visitor center to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. If resources were identified, mitigation through avoidance or data recovery would be undertaken. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would also accompany any ground-disturbing activities. In the event that unknown resources are encountered, all construction activities in the vicinity would be halted until the significance of the find is evaluated and an appropriate course of action is defined. Concerned historic preservation groups would also be consulted and their input incorporated into the management plan for this facility.

The documentation that would accompany the designation of Mulholland Drive as a scenic corridor would provide information that could be integrated into the management of this resource. A cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and impact

assessment conducted by a qualified archeologist, followed by mitigation through avoidance, data recovery, or other measures, if necessary, would precede all road improvements. Other effects might require mitigation through traffic control, access restriction, and visitor education. Regulations regarding protection of historic properties would be posted and included in handouts, pamphlets, brochures, or other printed materials intended for visitor use.

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995) would be followed for any projects effecting cultural resources at Peter Strauss Ranch, Solstice Canyon, Paramount Ranch and Rancho Sierra Vista.

Visitor Experience

Guide visitors to high use areas.

Encourage visitor use during less busy times.

Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.

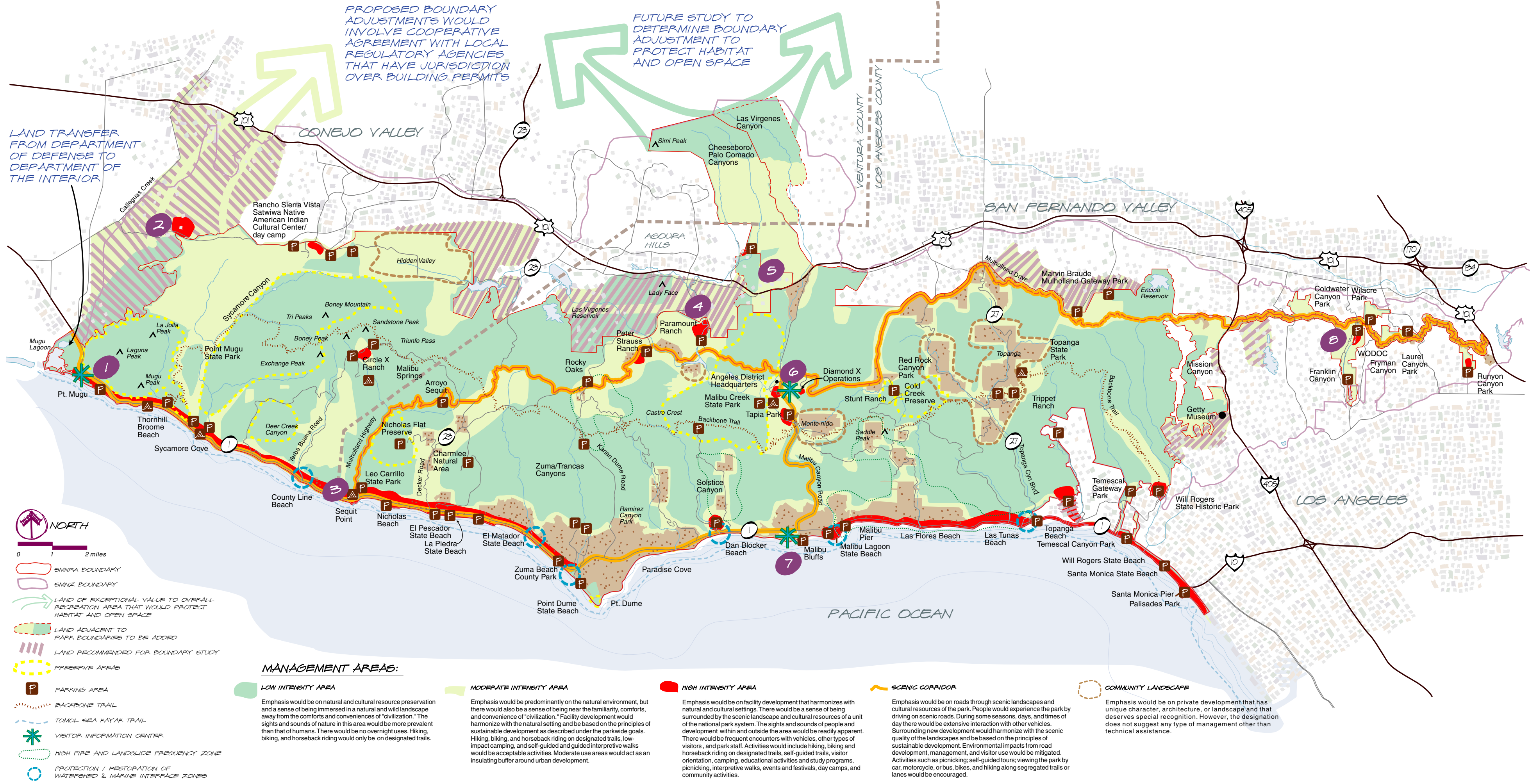
Improve existing trails, and create new trails and adequate camping areas in moderate intensity use areas.

Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

LAND USE

The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management areas within the SMMNRA.

In areas where high use intensity management areas overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.



- 1 MUGU LAGOON VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER
- 2 CSUCI RESEARCH & INFO. FACILITY
- 3 REDESIGN LEO CARRILLO CAMPGROUND TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE
- 4 PARAMOUNT RANCH FILM HISTORY CENTER
- 5 MORRISON HOUSE WOULD BE REHABILITATED
- 6 GILLETTE RANCH JOINT ADMINISTRATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- 7 MALIBU BLUFF MARINE VISITOR CENTER
- 8 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS EXPANDED EDUCATION DAY CAMP

PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE

EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON PRESERVING ALL NATURAL SYSTEMS AND DEVELOPING STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS.

THE ECOSYSTEM IS SUFFICIENTLY RARE TO WARRANT ITS PRESERVATION AS A NATURAL RESERVE. MOST PARK-RELATED DEVELOPMENT AND USES WOULD BE REMOVED, AND TRAILS WOULD BE RETAINED, IN SENSITIVE AREAS, REROUTED, AND EXPANDED ALONG THE BACKBONE TRAIL. SOME FIRE ROADS MIGHT BE ELIMINATED. PARKING WOULD BE "LOW INTENSITY" WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING AND ENHANCING NATURAL PROCESSES. THE MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEM COULD IMPROVE IN CONDITION AND FLOURISH INTO THE FUTURE. MOST PEOPLE COULD LEARN TO UNDERSTAND AND VALUE THIS ECOSYSTEM THROUGH INTERACTIVE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS USING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY. SENSITIVE HISTORICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES ARE PRESERVED AND PROTECTED

APPROXIMATELY 80 % OF AREA WOULD BE DESIGNATED "LOW INTENSITY;" THEREFORE, VISITOR ACCESS TO SENSITIVE RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE FACILITATED OR ENCOURAGED. MODERATE USE AREAS WOULD ACT AS A BUFFER FOR THE PRESERVATION AREA.

Figure 7:
PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CALIFORNIA

INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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POPULATION, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT

No mitigation measures are required.

TRANSPORTATION

It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.

The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.

The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's Departments to ensure adequate police protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.

Additional facilities should provide on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.

Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.

The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified by the administering agencies during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity should be confirmed for each facility before construction.

Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.

The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite power should be encouraged using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.

Education Alternative

CONCEPT

The emphasis in this alternative would be on developing strong environmental and cultural educational programs that reach the public, especially the school systems. Working through innovative partnerships, the goal would be to deliver an outdoor experience to every child in Los Angeles. In this manner, the national recreation area could inspire the people of the greater Los Angeles area to claim inheritance of and stewardship for the parklands.

All proposed facilities would have a strong educational dimension. Overnight educational camps would be available to groups.

Trails would be retained, but in sensitive areas, rerouted. Pictographs would be accessible by trail. Some dirt roads may be eliminated. Parking would be constructed of gravel or permeable surfaces wherever feasible in favor of preserving and enhancing natural processes and cultural character. The Mediterranean ecosystem would be protected and enhanced for long-term sustainability. People could learn to understand and value this ecosystem through interactive interpretive programs using cutting edge technology, and school environmental education programs. Figure 8 illustrates the management areas and facilities proposed as part of the education alternative.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity

Approximately 80 percent of the SMMNRA would be designated low intensity. Facilities would be maintained in a relatively primitive manner to preserve the visitor experience. Previously disturbed areas would be restored



to natural conditions. The only modifications to this environment within the park boundary would be for the purposes of protecting the resources from the impacts of use. Trails within this area with high learning potential might be complimented with narrative brochures but no physical development.

Sensitive historical and ethnographic resources would be preserved and protected.

Moderate Intensity

Approximately 15 percent of the parkland would be designated moderate intensity.

Moderate intensity areas would act, in part, as buffers against development to protect habitat and wildlife corridors for the preservation areas. In these areas resource protection would be balanced with visitor use and education activities, with more emphasis on the natural and cultural resources. Most of the areas would be targeted for cooperative planning using general agreements rather than fee acquisition. A boundary study would be suggested for the western escarpment of the Santa Monica Mountains to buffer some of the impacts of the California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) expansion and associated development on the western edge of the park.

The open space east of Hidden Valley, as well as Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, Ladyface Mountain, Triunfo Canyon and the area around the Las Virgenes Reservoir would be studied for inclusion in the national recreation area as a moderate intensity area. Studies would be conducted to determine the exact configuration of these boundary adjustments.

Simi Hills would be managed as a historic ranching landscape with Morrison Ranch house and the surrounding cultural landscape restored.

An interpretive site would be established at or near Burro Flats to interpret America's role in space that began with the Chumash astronomers.

High Intensity

Approximately 5 percent of the park would be designated high intensity. Most high intensity areas would be located on the perimeter of the parkland and in areas that are already high intensity areas such as the beaches. Some of these areas would allow overnight use, such as Leo Carrillo State Beach. The facility there would be redesigned to be environmentally sensitive. The development of the following park facilities would occur:

- **Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center** would be located at the western-most end of the park off PCH. This facility would emphasize use of sustainable energy and materials through a working education demonstration. Mugu Lagoon, managed by the U.S. Navy, is the largest coastal wetland in California outside the San Francisco Bay area. This facility would provide an important interpretation point for the estuarine ecosystem. The proposed site for the education center would be located in an already disturbed area off PCH. A boardwalk around the lagoon would allow visitors an opportunity to experience the lagoon system. This location allows beautiful views of the coast, an unspoiled view of the mountains, and a panorama of the lagoon.
- **Circle X Ranch**— would become an overnight environmental education camp with expanded facilities for group camping. Existing facilities would be rehabilitated, expanded, improved or replaced. Sustainable and compatible architectural and design themes would be established and sensitive resources would be protected in the siting of any new structures. This premise would be true with any development.
- **The campground at Leo Carrillo State Beach** would be rehabilitated to integrate the campground with natural riparian

processes. Interpretation of the riparian setting would be provided to educate visitors on the sensitive condition of this coastal landmark.

- **Decker Canyon**– would become an accessible overnight and day use environmental education center and camp for all ages and abilities.
- **Peter Strauss Ranch**– would host small art exhibits, concerts, fund-raisers and family events. The facility would become a focal point for cultural and fine arts education in the park. Circulation and parking improvements would be necessary.
- **Paramount Ranch**– would include facilities for a film history education center. Parking and circulation would be improved to accommodate visitation while protecting the cultural landscape.
- **The barn at Rancho Siera Vista**– would be adaptively reused as an environmental education center.
- **In the vicinity of Highway 101 and Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road**– a visitor center with a large screen theater would provide education and orientation for visitors along the 101 corridor. The theater would give an overview of the park with an emphasis on the importance of preserving the incredible variety of ecosystems in the park and its surroundings. State-of-art technology would be used to give a greater understanding of the park's resources and the importance of stewardship. The film community of the Los Angeles area would be a fertile resource for new and experimental means to explore the use of technology and experiencing the park.
- **White Oak Farm**– located near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road would offer interpretive and educational programs and exhibits.
- **A jointly operated administration and environmental education center** would be located at the Gillette Ranch site near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road. The National Park Service and California State Parks would house operations and management functions at this location. Existing buildings would be adapted for classroom use. An environmental education curriculum would be offered for all levels.
- **A visitor education center** would be located at Malibu Bluffs. This facility would be jointly operated by the NPS and CSP and would provide a general SMMNRA orientation and staging site for visitors to Malibu Lagoon, Malibu Pier, and the Adamson House.
- **An overnight environmental education camp** would be established at Corral Canyon to supplement the environmental education day camp in Solstice Canyon for school groups from the Los Angeles area.
- **415 PCH (Marion Davies Home)** located near the Santa Monica Pier, would be rehabilitated and provide an eastern gateway to the national recreation area and provide visitor orientation to the park. Exhibits would interpret the evolution of the southern California coastal culture, the history of PCH and the terminus of Historic Route 66. Congress recently passed legislation to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor.
- **The William O'Douglas Outdoor Center**– located at Franklin Canyon would offer an expanded educational day camp program for Los Angeles County schools.
- **Expanding the boundary to include Griffith Park and locating a visitor contact area within an existing facility**– would bring park presence closer to the city and provide orientation and a staging area for transportation to the park.



Scenic Corridor Areas

Scenic corridors would be designated for Mulholland Highway, Topanga Canyon Boulevard, PCH, Malibu Canyon Road, Kanan Road and Decker Canyon Road. These roadways are significant for their visual quality and historical, environmental, and recreational sites. Waysides and audio tours would be developed focusing on the significant features of the park as well as the natural and cultural history. A tourist shuttle could transport the visitor through the entire length of Mulholland Highway, starting with Coldwater Canyon and Franklin Canyon in the east and ending at Sequit Point in the southwest. Possibilities for automatic gates would facilitate travel for shuttle routes through the unpaved areas, while keeping the casual motorist out of restricted areas.

The establishment of agreements and design review boards would ensure that proposed developments are evaluated and found to be consistent with the scenic values of the corridors.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of the mitigation measures for the education alternative:

Soils and Geology

Soil erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be included in all facility development-specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the planned activities.

New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones. New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.

All grading and construction plans would be reviewed by a qualified staff member within the administering agencies for geologic and geotechnical review prior to approval.

Qualified geologists would conduct geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern. Such areas include projects involving hillside terrain, proximity to active or potentially active faults, proximity to landslides and areas of possible liquefaction.

Water Resources

A construction storm water management plan would be prepared for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance. The plan would consider best management practices such as temporary on-site water treatments, such as silt fences and sedimentation ponds.

Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.

The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce pollutants to prevent pollutants from reaching waterways wherever feasible.

Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens to groundwater or surface water. Qualified geologists would conduct a soils and engineering evaluation to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.

If on-site surface or groundwater would be used as a potable water source for new camp facilities, the administering agencies would study sources of drinking water for camps to avoid the over-extraction.

Flood Plains

During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, an engineering evaluation would be conducted to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.

Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event. NPS staff should patrol use areas within the flood plain prior to and during storms to assure that these areas are not occupied. In addition, various warning systems would also be utilized. For example, VCFCF has operated a flood warning system since February 1979. The system is called "ALERT", an acronym for Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time, which was developed by the National Weather Service.

Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.

Biological Resources and Wetlands

The administering agencies would avoid undisturbed native vegetation and wetlands through careful siting of facilities.

New development would be sited in previously disturbed areas; thereby avoiding or minimizing impacts on undisturbed native vegetation.

All grading and construction plans would be submitted to qualified administering agency technical staff for review prior to approval.

Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species, and would maintain appropriate fire-suppression zones around developed structures.

Erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be implemented for surface disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.

Pre-project surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to project implementation in the appropriate season for listed species, as well as other species of federal or state concern. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.

The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands) and CDFG as appropriate during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat might be affected during a proposed action.

Monitoring by a qualified biologist is required for surface-disturbing activities in or in close proximity to, sensitive vegetative or wildlife resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat).

Best management practices would be implemented during construction. For example, if construction would occur during the rainy season, temporary sedimentation retention basins could be required on some projects. In addition, servicing of construction vehicles could be prohibited within 100 feet of riparian corridors, or disturbances of native vegetation or the root zones of oak trees could be avoided by staking construction staging areas. Visitor management and visitor education programs would be developed for each project.

Fire clearance zones would be incorporated into the planning of developments.

Educational efforts, such as posting fire hazard signs and focusing on fire hazards in educational programs, would be implemented.

If vegetation is lost or disturbed from any activity, the area would be rehabilitated or revegetated with species from an appropriate native plant palette.



Sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas would be avoided through careful project siting.

The administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their effects on wetlands, other habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.

New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.

Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored.

Habitat connectivity would be maintained through the maintenance of sufficiently wide (greater than 400 feet) habitat linkages between major blocks of habitat.

The feasibility of retrofitting wildlife underpasses where primary roads intersect with wildlife movement areas within the recreation area would be considered in future NEPA documentation prepared for projects that might affect habitat linkages within their sphere of influence.

Paleontology

A qualified paleontologist would determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments during geological and geotechnical review of grading and construction plans.

If excavation were to occur in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, a qualified paleontologist would be present to monitor the site during excavation.

If fossils were discovered, construction would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until they were removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.

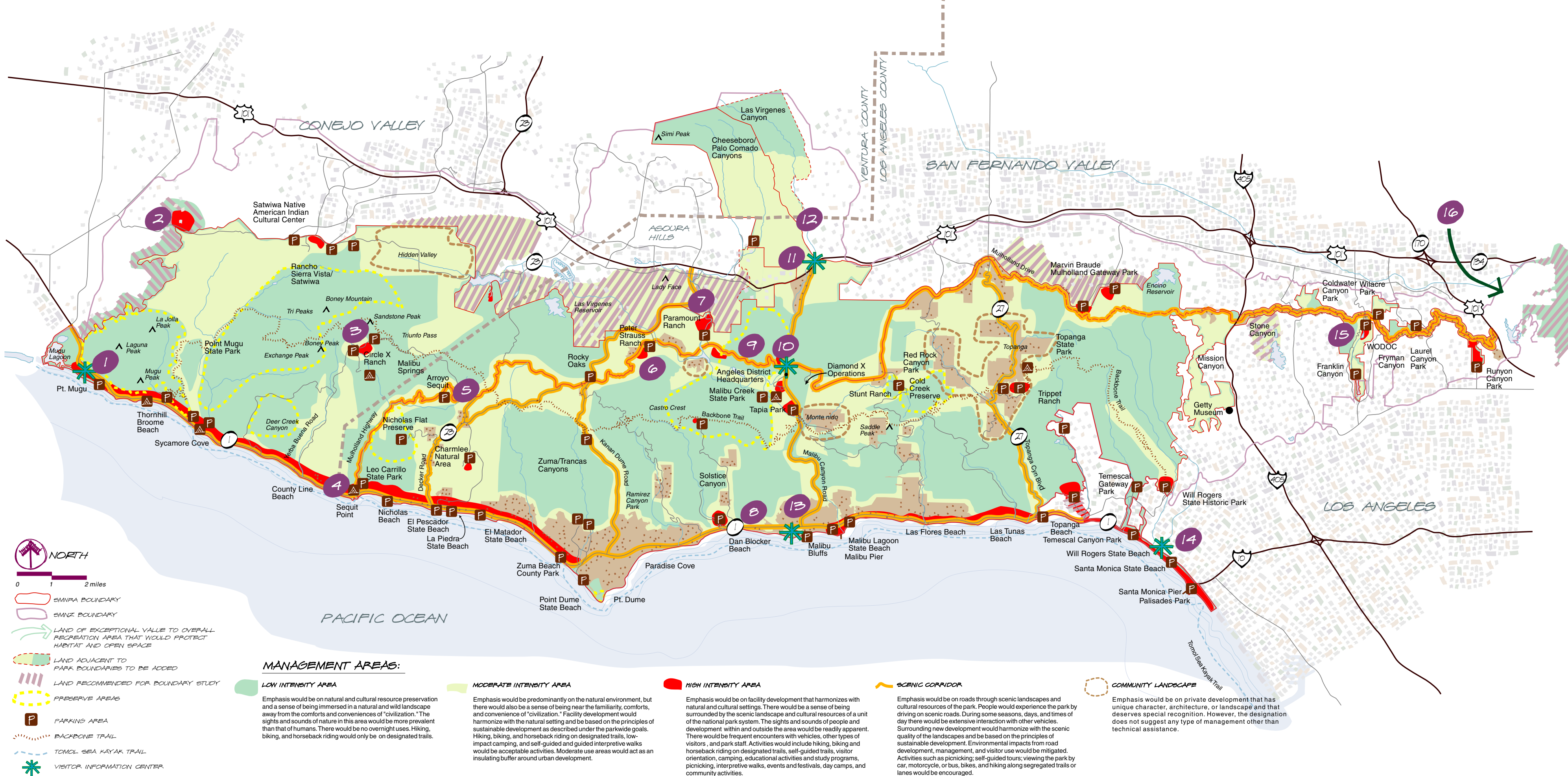
The administering agencies would implement public education regarding

the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.

Cultural Resources

A cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist would precede all trail construction. If any resources were identified, such mitigation measures, as avoidance or data recovery, would be conducted. Native American Indian groups, NPS subject matter experts, the SHPO and interested individuals and groups would be consulted regarding appropriate mitigation of potential impacts to cultural landscapes and places of traditional or sacred significance. To the extent possible, the trail would be constructed to avoid or minimize impacts to the traditional values of such places. A cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist would precede all grading and construction. If resources are identified, such mitigation measures, as avoidance or data recovery would be conducted.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the administering agencies would consult with the SHPO and interested Native American communities prior to the implementation of any of the proposed actions (e.g., new facilities, facility enhancements, campgrounds, etc.) that might affect cultural resources. The administering agencies would consult with concerned Native American Indian groups to assist in developing measures to ensure that this program is developed in a manner consistent with respect for Native American Indian beliefs, traditions, and other cultural values. A qualified archeologist would conduct a program of inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment prior to any ground disturbing activities affecting archeological resources.



- 1 MUGU LAGOON VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER
- 2 CSUCI RESEARCH & INFO. FACILITY
- 3 CIRCLE X OVERNIGHT EDUCATION CAMP
- 4 REDESIGN LEO CARRILLO CAMPGROUND TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE
- 5 DECKER CANYON ACCESSIBLE OVERNIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- 6 PETER STRAUSS RANCH EVENT AREA
- 7 PARAMOUNT RANCH FILM HISTORY EDUCATION CENTER
- 8 CORRAL CANYON OVERNIGHT EDUCATION CAMP
- 9 WHITE OAK FARM INTERPRETIVE HISTORY MUSEUM
- 10 GILLETTE RANCH JOINT ADMINISTRATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- 11 NORTHERN GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER, PARK AND RIDE, & LARGE SCREEN THEATER
- 12 LOS VIRGENES ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
- 13 MALIBU BLUFFS COASTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- 14 415 PCH SANTA MONICA / PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY VISITOR INFORMATION SITE
- 15 EXPANDED EDUCATION DAY CAMP AT WODOC IN FRANKLIN CANYON
- 16 EXPAND BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE GRIFFITH PARK - CONSOLIDATE VISITOR CENTER WITH AN EXISTING FACILITY AND INCLUDE STONE CANYON RESERVOIR

EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE

EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON PRESERVING ALL NATURAL SYSTEMS AND DEVELOPING STRONG EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT REACH THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

THE ECOSYSTEM IS SUFFICIENTLY RARE TO WARRANT ITS PRESERVATION AS A NATURAL RESERVE. MOST PARK-RELATED DEVELOPMENT AND USES WOULD BE REMOVED, AND TRAILS WOULD BE RETAINED, IN SENSITIVE AREAS, REROUTED, AND EXPANDED ALONG THE BACKBONE TRAIL. SOME FIRE ROADS MIGHT BE ELIMINATED. PARKING WOULD BE 'LOW IMPACT' WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING AND ENHANCING NATURAL PROCESSES. THE MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEM COULD IMPROVE IN CONDITION AND FLOURISH INTO THE FUTURE. MOST PEOPLE COULD LEARN TO UNDERSTAND AND VALUE THIS ECOSYSTEM THROUGH INTERACTIVE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS USING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

APPROXIMATELY 75% OF AREA WOULD BE DESIGNATED 'LOW INTENSITY.' THEREFORE, VISITOR ACCESS TO SENSITIVE RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE FACILITATED OR ENCOURAGED. MODERATE USE AREAS WOULD ACT AS A BUFFER FOR THE PRESERVATION AREA.

Figure 8:

EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CALIFORNIA

INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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If resources were identified, mitigation of impacts through avoidance, data recovery, access restriction, and visitor education would be conducted.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of any property. Specifically, an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program would be carried out by a qualified archeologist, followed by mitigation if necessary. Mitigation measures would include avoidance, data recovery through HABS/HAER documentation, reconstruction using historic materials, or similar measures in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

To assist with visitor education, the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of *Muwu* to the cultural history of the area.

Visitor Experience

Guide visitors to high use areas.

Encourage visitor use during less busy times.

Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.

Improve existing trails, and create new trails and adequate camping areas in moderate intensity use areas.

Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

LAND USE

The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management areas within the SMMNRA.

In areas where high use intensity management areas overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.

POPULATION, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT

No mitigation measures are required.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.

The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.

The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's Departments to ensure adequate police protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.

Additional facilities should provide additional on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.

Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.

The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity at such treatment facilities should be confirmed by the administering agencies for each facility before construction.

Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.

The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite production of power should be encouraged using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.



Recreation Alternative

CONCEPT

The emphasis of this concept would be on maximizing recreation with new park development concentrated in areas that are not environmentally sensitive, or areas that have already been disturbed. A broader dispersion of outdoor recreational facilities would be provided without jeopardizing the long-term preservation of the natural and cultural communities. Approximately 65 percent of the park would be open to multi-use trails and more designated camping areas would be created. Existing wilderness areas would remain in that status. Boundary expansion would be limited to the areas listed in "Actions Common to all Alternatives." Figure 9 illustrates the management areas and facilities proposed under the recreation alternative.

MANAGEMENT AREAS

Low Intensity Areas

Twenty-five percent of the highly sensitive areas in the SMMNRA would be designated low intensity. Facilities would be maintained in a relatively primitive manner to preserve the visitor experience. Those areas already in wilderness status would remain so, and a portion of upper Cheeseboro Canyon and upper Zuma and Trancas Canyons would be designated low intensity.

Moderate Intensity Areas

Approximately 65 percent of the park would be designated moderate intensity. All trails would be multi-use trails and the area available for overnight use would be limited to designated camping areas. Sycamore Canyon would be a multi-use recreation corridor. A bypass would be

needed around the preserve to accommodate mountain bikes. There would be designated trail camps in appropriate areas on the Backbone Trail to accommodate a multi-day recreation experience.

High Intensity Areas

Approximately 10 percent of the park would be designated high intensity use. Some existing facilities would be expanded with any new development occurring only in already disturbed areas, as described below:

- **Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center** would be located at the western-most end of the park off Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). This facility would emphasize use of sustainable energy and materials through a working education demonstration. Mugu Lagoon, managed by the U.S. Navy, is the largest coastal wetland in California outside the San Francisco Bay area. This facility would provide an important interpretation point for the estuarine ecosystem. The proposed site for the education center would be located in an already disturbed area off PCH. A boardwalk around the lagoon would allow visitors an opportunity to experience the lagoon system. This location allows beautiful views of the coast, an unspoiled view of the mountains, and a panorama of the lagoon.
- **Expanded facilities located at Circle X Ranch** – would offer additional overnight accommodations for groups. The facilities would also offer improved access to backcountry recreation trails, including the Backbone Trail.
- **The campground at Leo Carrillo State Beach** would be rehabilitated to integrate the campground with natural riparian processes. Interpretation of the riparian setting would be provided to educate visitors on the sensitive condition of this coastal landmark.

- **Decker Canyon**– would become an accessible overnight and day use environmental education center and camp for all ages and abilities.
- **Paramount Ranch**– would include improved visitor facilities, a film history museum and opportunities to watch live motion picture productions.
- **White Oak Farm**– located near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Canyon Road would offer education and interpretive exhibits.
- **A visitor center located in the vicinity of the intersection of Highway 101 and Las Virgenes Road** – would serve as a northern gateway to the park and would provide visitor orientation and resource interpretation.
- **A visitor education center would be located at Malibu Bluffs.** – This location would serve as a staging area and orientation for park facilities such as the Adamson House, Malibu Lagoon and Malibu Pier. This site is centrally located and very visible from PCH.
- **A scenic coastal boat tour run by concession** would offer visitors a unique view of the coastline and mountain scenery. Docking points would be located at the Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Pier.
- **A visitor contact station and National Park Learning Center**– would be located at Exposition Park would provide visitor orientation at the eastern end of the park and provide a general introduction to the National Park system.

Scenic Corridor Areas

Pacific Coast Highway, Mulholland Highway, Topanga Canyon Road, Malibu Canyon Road and Kanan Dume Road would be designated scenic corridors.

A shuttle service could allow hikers to experience as much of the park as possible by picking them up at the end of their journey so they would not have to return to their starting point. The enormous size

of the SMMNRA would benefit from a loop service that stopped at relatively few stations, with some route deviation capabilities. Should Calabasas and Agoura Hills continue to run shuttles to Zuma Beach in the future, efforts could be made to encourage operations that include one or two SMMNRA trailheads as well, and connect the service to a future park and ride facility.

The establishment of agreements and design review boards would ensure that proposed developments are evaluated and found to be consistent with the scenic values of the corridors.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of mitigation measures for the recreation alternative:

Soils and Geology

Soil erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be included in all facility development-specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the planned activities.

New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones. New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.

All grading and construction plans would be reviewed by qualified staff within the administering agencies for geologic and geotechnical review prior to approval.

A qualified geologist would conduct geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern. Such areas include projects involving hillside terrain, proximity to active or potentially active faults, proximity to landslides, and areas of possible liquefaction.



Water Resources

A construction storm water management plan would be prepared for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance. The plan would consider best management practices such as temporary on-site water treatments, such as silt fences and sedimentation ponds. Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.

The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce pollutants to prevent pollutants from reaching waterways wherever feasible.

Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens to groundwater or surface water. A qualified engineer would conduct a soils and engineering evaluation to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.

If on-site surface or groundwater would be used as a potable water source for new camp facilities, the administering agencies would study sources of drinking water for camps to avoid the over-extraction of water.

Flood Plains

During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, an engineering evaluation would be conducted by a qualified engineer to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.

Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event. NPS staff should patrol use areas within the flood plain prior to and during storms to assure that these areas are not occupied. In

addition, various warning systems would also be utilized. For example, VCFCDD has operated a flood warning system since February 1979. The system is called "ALERT", an acronym for Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time, which was developed by the National Weather Service.

Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.

Biological Resources and Wetlands

The administering agencies would avoid undisturbed native vegetation and wetlands through careful siting of facilities.

New development would be sited in previously disturbed areas; thereby avoiding or minimizing impacts on undisturbed native vegetation.

All grading and construction plans would be submitted to qualified administering agency staff for review prior to approval.

Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species, and would maintain appropriate fire-suppression zones around developed structures.

Erosion control measures such as sediment retention basins, silt fencing, or slope stabilization techniques would be implemented for surface-disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.

Pre-project surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to project implementation in the appropriate season for listed species, as well as other species of federal or state concern. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.

The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands) and CDFG during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat might be affected during a proposed action.

A qualified biologist would monitor surface-disturbing activities in or in close proximity to sensitive vegetative or wildlife resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat).

Best management practices would be implemented during construction. For example, if construction would occur during the rainy season, temporary sedimentation retention basins could be required on some projects. In addition, servicing of construction vehicles could be prohibited within 100 feet of riparian corridors, or disturbances of native vegetation or the root zones of oak trees could be avoided by staking construction staging areas. Such measures, and others as appropriate, would ensure that impacts on biological resources due to construction would be minimized.

Fire clearance zones would be incorporated into the planning of developments.

Educational efforts would be implemented, such as posting fire hazard signs and providing hikers brochures at trail entry points.

If vegetation is lost or disturbed from visitor activities, the area would be rehabilitated or revegetated with species from an appropriate native plant palette and seeds/plants would be obtained from local sources.

Sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas would be avoided through careful project siting.

The administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their affects on wetlands, other habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.

New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.

Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored.

Habitat connectivity would be maintained through the maintenance of sufficiently wide (greater than 400 feet) habitat linkages between major blocks of habitat.

The feasibility of retrofitting wildlife underpasses where primary roads intersect with wildlife movement areas within the recreation area would be considered in the NEPA/CEQA documentation prepared for projects that might affect habitat linkages within their sphere of influence.

Paleontology

A qualified individual within the administering agencies would determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments during geological and geotechnical review of grading and construction plans.

If excavation were to occur in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, monitoring by a qualified paleontologist would occur during excavation.

If fossils were discovered, construction would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until they were removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.

The administering agencies would implement public education regarding the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.

Cultural Resources

A monitoring program that would assess the rate and nature of impacts to cultural resources in the vicinity of trails and other high intensity use areas would be established. This program would focus on a subset of resources, and the results extrapolated to similar settings. Should monitoring reveal the acceleration or degradation of cultural resources to an unacceptable level, mitigation measures would be developed in consultation with recreational groups, the SHPO, and



concerned Native American Indian groups. Such measures would include avoidance, data recovery, access restriction, signage, visitor education, and similar actions.

The administering agencies would consult with the SHPO and the ACHP prior to the implementation of any of the proposed component actions. Because multiple uses have the potential to accelerate degradation of cultural resources on all trails, all trails would be subject to cultural resources investigations by qualified archeologists, including inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment. Mitigation measures, including avoidance, data recovery, access restrictions, and visitor education, would be developed for those resources that could be expected to be impacted by component actions.

A cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, would be completed prior to the finalization of plans associated with the Mugu Lagoon Center, to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. If necessary, resources are identified, mitigation through avoidance or data recovery would be undertaken. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would accompany any ground-disturbing activities. In the event that any unanticipated resources are encountered, all construction in the vicinity would be halted until the significance of the find is evaluated and an appropriate course of action defined. To assist with visitor education, the education center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of *Muwu* to the cultural history of the area.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch and White Oak Farm. Specifically, an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program would be carried out by a qualified archeologist, followed by mitigation if

necessary. Mitigation measures could include avoidance, data recovery through HABS/HAER documentation, reconstruction using historically materials, or similar measures, in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995).

Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the Malibu Bluffs visitor center site would be subject to a cultural resources investigation, including inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment by a qualified archeologist. Mitigation measures, including avoidance, data recovery, access restriction, and visitor education, would be developed for those resources that could be expected to be impacted by this component action. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian representative would accompany any ground disturbing construction. If any unanticipated materials are discovered, all ground-disturbing activities in the area would cease until the significance of the find could be determined and an appropriate course of action approved. Such action could include avoidance, preservation in place, or data recovery.

All road improvements would be preceded by a cultural resource investigation by a qualified archeologist, inclusive of inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment, followed by mitigation, if necessary. Such measures would include avoidance or data recovery. The documentation that would accompany designation would provide information that could be integrated into the management of this resource. Through the assessments and consultations that would attend such a designation, additional mechanisms, incentives, and opportunities to protect the resource from indirect impacts could be provided to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Such measures could include traffic volume control, parking control, and expanded transit options.

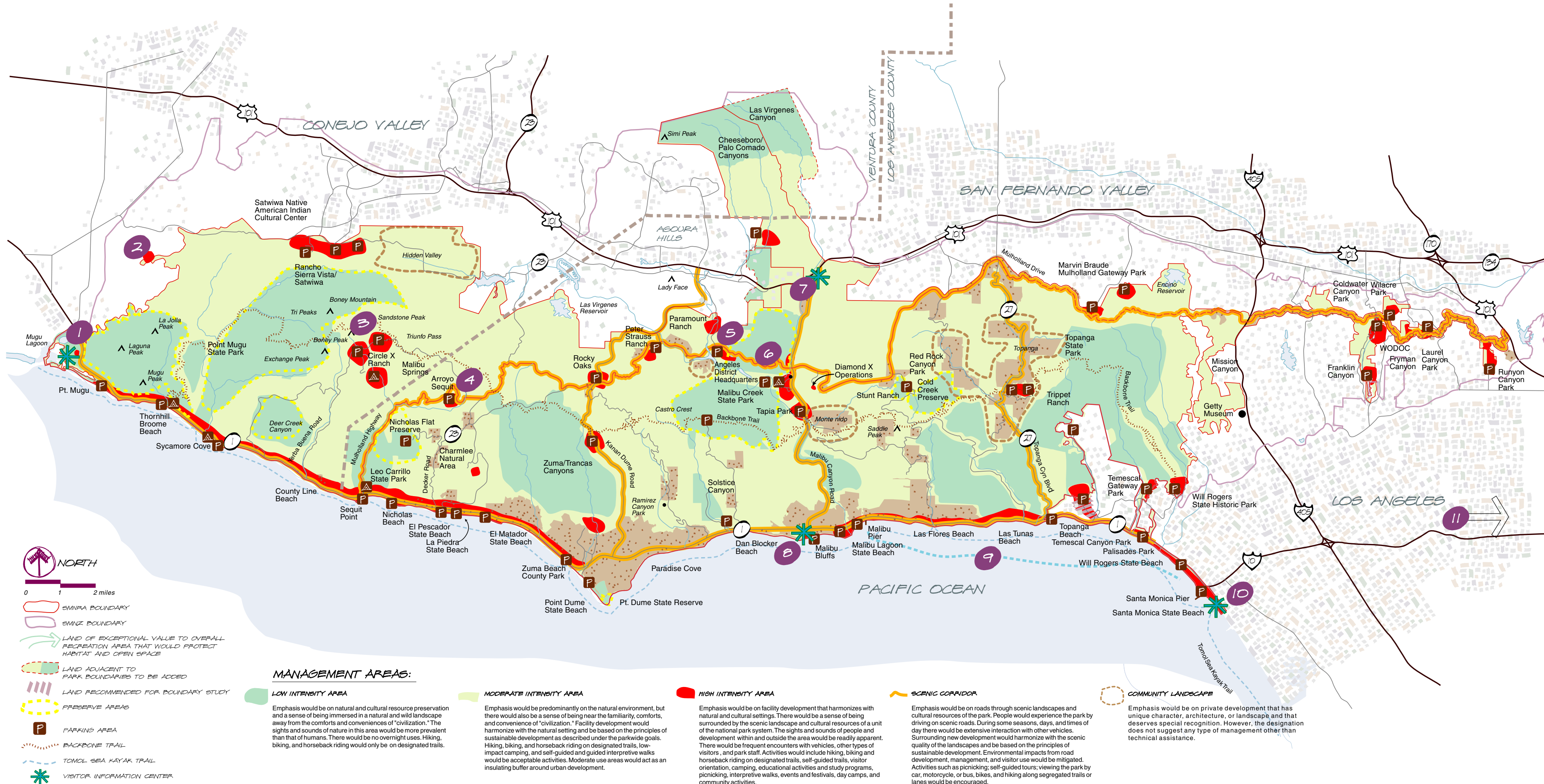


Figure 9:
**RECREATION
ALTERNATIVE**

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CALIFORNIA**

INCLUDES UNITS OF NPS, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS,
AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
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Visitor Experience

Guide visitors to high use areas.

Encourage visitor use during less busy times.

Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.

Improve existing trails, and create new trails and adequate camping areas in moderate intensity use areas.

Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

LAND USE

The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management areas within the SMMNRA.

In areas where high use intensity management areas overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.

POPULATION, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT

No mitigation measures are required.

TRANSPORTATION

It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.

The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.

The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's

Departments to ensure adequate police protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.

Additional facilities should provide on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.

Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.

The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified by the administering agencies during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity should be confirmed for each facility before construction.

Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.

The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite production of power should be encouraged using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.

Summary of Alternatives

Table 8 provides a summary of the resource management character, visitor experience, facility development, management activities, and transportation conditions for each of the five proposed alternatives.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Table 9, in this chapter, provides a comparative summary of the environmental consequences and mitigation measures for



each of the five proposed alternatives. In addition to Table 9 and the summaries of mitigation measures at the end of each alternative in this chapter, the mitigation measures are described throughout the chapter Environmental Consequences.

Strategies Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

In September of 1997, a newsletter was distributed to the public requesting visions for the future of the park. Many of the comments received focused on public use, natural resources and the protection of the park. The majority of comments reflected a balanced strategy with more emphasis on preserving natural resources. However, some ideas were noteworthy but for various reasons could not be included in the alternatives.

- **Change the “National Recreation Area” designation to “National Park” status**
Although the size and resource significance of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area equals or exceeds those of some NPS units bearing the formal designation national park, the recreation area’s current state suggests such a question is better left to a later time. The argument for this notion is based on the fact that land remains to be acquired, resource strategies are yet to be implemented, and facilities need to be completed. It should be further noted that such designations are ultimately the decision of Congress and occur as the result of law. General management plans do not ordinarily propose this sort of congressional action.
- **Limit the amount of development within park boundaries** – This draft general management plan and environmental

impact statement would seek to limit the development of park facilities, in that it hopes to avoid duplication among park agencies and provide only those facilities needed to permit public enjoyment consistent with the protection of park resources. But, to the extent that this suggestion would seek to limit private development, such action would be contrary to the cooperative nature of the park intended by Congress when established in 1978. When all parklands are protected, as envisioned in the national recreation area’s land protection plan, one-third of the park would remain in private ownership.

- **Convert Malibu Canyon Road to a toll road and reduce speed limit to 30 miles per hour**
This proposal speaks to the concern that the park character of some key roads is dramatically affected by commuter traffic. Limitations on any given road, however, would be likely to build pressure for roads elsewhere in the park, with equally unsatisfactory results. Though a problem that deserves attention, immediate solutions lie well beyond the scope and resources of this planning effort.
- **Buy all the vacant land within and adjacent to the park boundary.** – As noted previously, this suggestion would fall outside the legislative intent of Congress for the recreation area and capacity for appropriations.
- **Prohibit mountain biking in the park.**
None of the park agencies participating in the development of this plan believe that prohibiting mountain biking would be feasible or desirable. That is not to say that mountain bikes are an appropriate use in all areas, but a complete prohibition of their use would be equally unwarranted and ignores the interests of a large component of park users.

Alternatives
Strategies Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

- **Open fire roads to motorcycle use**
Motorcycles on fire roads in the park would be contrary to the applicable law and policy for each of the park agencies. The roads provide access to otherwise undeveloped areas of the park where inappropriate motorcycle use, however rare, could have devastating adverse impacts. Moreover, the fire roads are not maintained nor provided for the purpose of motorcycle use. Serious questions would be raised about potential safety and liability.
- **Redraw park boundary to follow physical and ecological lines rather than political lines**
Have the park encompass complete natural systems – The Santa Monica Mountains Zone affords the National Park Service the ability to cooperate with other resource agencies beyond park boundaries in an effort to restore and maintain natural systems. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has an even broader reach in its legislative mandate. Little would be gained by any significant attempt to revise the recreation area's boundary along physical or ecological lines. In large part, such lines have already been obscured by development in adjacent areas. Different natural systems can overlay one another but have very different boundaries, leaving a large question as to which boundary should be applied. With that explanation, readers should consider that some alternatives do propose boundary adjustments in certain areas, in an effort to better correspond to natural systems. A clear example of this is the preferred alternative's proposed expansion of the wildlife corridor in the area of Liberty Canyon.
- **Provide shuttle systems to and from trailheads from visitor center** – Present patterns of use, which concentrate use on weekends and certain hours of the day, cannot support

the cost of a dedicated shuttle system. The preferred alternative, however, does propose the support and accommodation of local systems at certain trailheads and visitor centers. This would result in a similar outcome, albeit on a more limited scale. Use patterns at some point might warrant a future plan's consideration of this kind of shuttle system.



Table 8

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE	
	Low Intensity – (30%) Moderate Intensity – (60%) High Intensity – (10%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (25%) Moderate Intensity – (65%) High Intensity – (10%)	
Resource Management Character and Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Watersheds and coastal resources would be protected and preserved through watershed management practices. Estuaries and lagoons restored to their natural state.Sensitive historic and ethnographic resources would be protected and preserved.Alien plant species would be eradicated, where appropriate, and habitat for animal populations maintained and restored.Solstice Canyon Steelhead trout would be reintroduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing natural and cultural resource programs would be continued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Steelhead trout reintroduction would be attempted in Solstice Canyon, Malibu Creek and Arroyo Sequit. Non-historic trails and recreation would be relocated away from sensitive areas. Sensitive historical and ethnographic resources would be preserved and protected.Wildlife corridors would be identified and protected. Natural processes would be allowed to continue unimpeded except when active manipulation to manage for native biological diversity or rare, threatened or endangered species or communities is deemed appropriate.Watershed/marine interface zones would be protected and restored.Sensitive historic and ethnographic resources would be protected and preserved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove any park-related activities in sensitive areas, and only recreation that is non-damaging would be encouraged. Steelhead trout would be re-introduced in Solstice Creek and Calleguas Creek and Malibu and Arroyo Sequit watersheds resources. Simi Hills would be managed to maximize biological habitat while preserving ethnographic and historic sites.Sensitive historical and ethnographic resources would be protected and preserved. Wildlife corridors identified and protected. Watershed/marine interface zones would be protected and restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-historic trails would be re-routed in sensitive areas.Sensitive historical and ethnographic resources would be preserved and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highly sensitive areas would be protected. Facilities in these areas would be primitive. Recreation would be dispersed throughout the SMMNRA. More area would be open to trails.Sensitive historical and ethnographic resources would be preserved and protected.
Visitor Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Day camp would be located at Rancho Sierra Vista for contemporary and traditional Native American cultures. Research and Information center would be provided at CSUCI campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing programs would be continued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource compatible recreation would be encouraged (hiking, wildlife observation). Environmental education programs would be increased. Only designated trails would be multi-use. Pictographs would be in low intensity areas. Pictographs will be interpreted at visitor centers and at exhibits in high intensity areas.Scenic coastal boat tour docking would be offered at Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Pier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource compatible recreation would be encouraged (hiking, wildlife observation). Environmental education programs would be increased. Technology would be used to provide a “virtual park experience” at visitor centers outside park. Only designated trails would be multi-use. Pictographs would be in low intensity areas. Pictographs would be interpreted at visitor centers and at exhibits in high intensity areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource-compatible recreation would be encouraged.Emphasis in this alternative would be on stronger educational programs. Goal is to deliver an educational experience to every child in L.A.Overnight educational camps would be available to groups. Only designated trails would be multi-use.Pictographs would be accessible by trail and actively interpreted to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreation would be maximized. All trails would be multi-use.Scenic coastal boat tour would be offered at Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Pier.
Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental education day camp would be located at Solstice Canyon.Backbone trail would be completed.Cheeseboro Canyon trailhead would be expanded.Environmental Education Center would be developed at Staircase Beach at Leo Carrillo State Park.Temescal Canyon educational day camp would be expanded.Mission Canyon trailhead would be developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as “Actions Common to All.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as Preservation Alternative. <u>Additions:</u>Circle X would become a primitive overnight education camp. White Oak Farm would interpret early ranching history.415 PCH would be rehabilitated into visitor orientation center. Visitor information sites would be located at LAX and El Pueblo in downtown Los Angeles.Scenic coastal boat tour would be offered, docking at Santa Monica Pier and Malibu Pier. The barn at Rancho Sierra Vista would be reused as an environmental education center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing facilities and trails would be analyzed for impact and removed if damaging.Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would be located on the western end of PCH. Campground at Leo Carillo would be rehabilitated. Film history center at would be located at Paramount Ranch.Significant cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the Gillette Ranch would be adaptively reused for joint administration, curation and environmental and cultural education.Visitor Center would be located at Malibu Bluffs. Educational day camp at WDOC would be expanded. The Morrison House would be rehabilitated to reflect the ranching period. The cultural landscape surrounding the house would be maintained. Morrison Ranch House and cultural landscape would be restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would be located on the western end of PCH. Circle X Ranch would become an overnight education camp. Campground at Leo Carillo State Park would be rehabilitated to integrate with natural processes. Decker Canyon would become an accessible overnight education camp. Peter Strauss Ranch would become a focal point for culture and fine arts education in the park. Paramount Ranch would have a film history education center. A visitor center with a large screen theater would be located at Highway 101 and Malibu Canyon Road. White Oak Farm would offer exhibits interpreting early ranching in Southern California. A jointly-operated administration and environmental education center would be located at the Gillette Ranch site. A visitor education center would be located at Malibu Bluffs. An overnight education camp would be established at Corral Canyon. 415 PCH would be rehabilitated to interpret southern California culture and the terminus of Route 66. A Visitor information site would be located in Griffith Park. The barn at Ranch Sierra Vista would be an environmental education center. Morrison Ranch House and cultural landscape would be restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing facilities would be expanded.Actions are the same as the Education Alternative <u>except:</u>There would be no joint admin/environmental education facility at Gillette Ranch. A visitor contact station would be located at Exposition Park.Filming activity would continue to be permitted on the set locations established throughout the cultural landscape by Paramount in the 1930s and 1940s to preserve the educational opportunities associated with the site’s historic use.



SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES		NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
		Low Intensity – (30%) Moderate Intensity – (60%) High Intensity – (10%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (80%) Moderate Intensity – (15%) High Intensity – (5%)	Low Intensity – (25%) Moderate Intensity – (65%) High Intensity – (10%)
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NPS and CSP would jointly administer operations when feasible. Information and telecommunication technology would be used to promote more efficient park operations. The properties, Upper Las Virgenes Canyon and Burro Flats, land adjacent to Mulholland Gateway Park and Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor would be added to park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Headquarter facilities for the two agencies would remain in present location. Archeological sites would continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NPS would play a greater role in the administration of Mugu Lagoon in cooperation with the U.S.Navy.Recommended boundary study areas would be: the western escarpment of the Santa Monica Mountains, the area around Las Virgenes Reservoir, Conejo Valley, Ladyface, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, the area east of Hidden Valley, Stone Canyon and the area north and west of Yerba Buena Road. The area north into the Simi Hills area would be studied for boundary adjustment to protect critical wildlife habitat and open space. The principal strategy of protection for the National Park Service would be through agreement and cooperation rather than fee acquisition.Land prone to repeated hazard due to natural disasters would be proposed to FEMA for accelerated acquisition.An archeological district of the Santa Monica Mountains would be documented and nominated to the national register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Eastern portion of Mugu Lagoon would be transferred from the U.S. Navy. Areas which would be studied for potential addition to the NRA: western escarpment of Santa Monica Mountains, a portion of Calleguas Creek watershed, the area around Las Virgenes Reservoir, Conejo Valley, Ladyface, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, the area northeast of Hidden Valley, Stone Canyon and the area north and west of Yerba Buena Road. The area north into Conejo Valley, and from Simi Hills to Santa Susanna Pass would be studied for boundary adjustment to protect critical wildlife habitat and open space.The principal strategy of protection for the National Park Service would be through agreement and cooperation rather than fee acquisition.An archeological district of the Santa Monica Mountains would be documented and nominated to the National Register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NPS would play a greater role in the administration of Mugu Lagoon in cooperation with the U.S. Navy.Recommended boundary study areas would be: area west of La Jolla Peak, the western escarpment of the Santa Monica Mountains, the open space east of Hidden Valley, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, Ladyface Mountain, Triunfo Canyon and the area around the Las Virgenes Reservoir.The principal strategy of protection for the National Park Service would be through agreement and cooperation rather than fee acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There would be no boundary expansion except that listed in “Actions Common to All.”
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visual and recreational elements of Mulholland Drive and Highway would be promoted and preserved. Limiting of roadway expansion would be supported. Transportation centers would be developed. Transportation education would be provided. Regional transit expansion would be supported. Improved management of PCH would be supported. Alternative fuels would be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as “Actions Common to All.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as Preservation Alternative.Mulholland would be cooperatively managed to emphasize its continuity, historic significance and scenic values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as “Actions Common to All.” <u>Additions:</u>A circular interior loop consisting of Mulholland Highway to Sequit Point where it intersects with PCH to Malibu Canyon Road would be designated a scenic corridor.Shuttle services would be explored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as “Actions Common to All.”Mulholland Drive, Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu Canyon Road, Kanan Road and Decker Canyon Road would be designated scenic corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same as Education Alternative, except Decker Canyon would not be included as a scenic corridor.



Table 9

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Natural Resources					
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction impacts to soils would be considered minor to moderate because construction sites are local and construction activities would be intermittent. Localized adverse impacts on soil erosion due to facilities development, fuel management, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, trail maintenance, visitor uses, unplanned fires would also be minor to moderate. Potentially major impacts due to geologic hazards would occur due to the potential for substantial human safety risk and property loss. The following mitigation measures would be recommended and would reduce the impacts to minor levels:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Soil erosion control measures would be included in all facility development specific plans and would be considered when implementing any of the activities listed above.New facilities would be sited to avoid geologic hazard zones. New facilities and the modification of existing facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable state and federal building code standards.All grading and construction plans would be reviewed by a qualified professional for geologic and geotechnical review prior to approval.Geotechnical and geologic hazard investigations would be conducted prior to project implementation with a focus on projects in areas of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct and indirect impacts on soil and geologic resources resulting from the preferred alternative are similar to the minor to moderate short-term impacts associated with the no action alternative.Beneficial effects of the preferred alternative include plans to restore disturbed areas in the recreation area to natural conditions. There would be a modest decrease in erosion and resultant siltation under this alternative compared to the no action alternative due to a greater proportion of the area designated as low intensity use.Geologic hazards could impose major adverse impacts to public health and property as a result of facilities development. This alternative includes more facilities and improvements than the no action alternative and therefore increased potential exposure to geologic hazards. The mitigation measures described under the no action alternative would reduce impacts for soils and geologic hazards to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct and indirect adverse impacts on soils and geology in the preservation alternative would be the lowest of all alternatives analyzed. Impacts from facility development in this alternative are similar to the no action alternative and minor to moderate. With mitigation, impacts would be reduced to minor or negligible.Potential beneficial effects would be greatest for the preservation alternative as compared to the other alternatives because the risk of fires and subsequent soil erosion would decrease throughout the recreation area.Geologic hazards could impose adverse impacts on public health and property as a result of facilities development and would be reduced to a minor level with mitigation, as described under the no action alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor to moderate short-term impacts on soils and geology from facility development in this alternative are similar to the no action alternative but would affect a larger area due to the increased number of facilities. With the rehabilitation of existing recreation area developments, impacts of erosional soil loss should be beneficial. Impacts on soil from fire management and facility development in this alternative would potentially be greater than from the no action alternative, but would remain moderate. The removal of developments would potentially reduce erosional soil losses and downstream siltation. The reduction of parking in some areas of the SMMNRA would potentially reduce runoff and decrease erosion.Similar to previous alternatives, geologic hazards could impose major adverse impacts to public health and property as a result of facilities development. This alternative includes more facilities and improvements than the no action alternative and would therefore increase potential exposure to geologic hazards.Mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce impacts for soils and geologic hazards to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed facilities development would have direct minor to moderate adverse impacts on soils and geology. Impacts would include the removal and disturbance of soils and geologic deposits through construction activities, such as cut and fill, grading, and paving. Removal of soils and vegetation by surface disturbing activities could also result in increased soil erosion that can, in turn, adversely affect off-site vegetation and increase siltation in downstream watercourses. Minor to moderate adverse impacts on soils could also result from fire management, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, and trail maintenance. No beneficial effects to soil and geologic resources are anticipated for the recreation alternative.Geologic hazards could impose major adverse impacts to public health and property after facilities development. Potential impacts resulting from geologic hazards would be limited to areas where facilities would be added. This alternative includes more facilities and improvements than the no action alternative and would therefore increase potential exposure to geologic hazards.Mitigation for soils and geologic hazards that would reduce adverse impacts to minor remains the same for all alternatives, and is discussed under the no action alternative.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The no action alternative would have a minor to moderate adverse impact on water resources from increased runoff, soil erosion, and pollutants. All impacts would be reduced to minor levels, provided that the following mitigation measures are employed.This alternative could result in potentially moderate long-term impacts related to the Leo Carrillo State Park Visitor Center. The designation of high intensity use that encompasses the Arroyo Sequit Stream flood plain could also result in adverse impacts. Mitigation measures could reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.<ol style="list-style-type: none">A construction storm water management plan would be prepared for all construction activities affecting one or more acres to minimize soil disturbance.Fueling and servicing of construction equipment would not occur within 100 feet of a water body or drainage area unless adequate spill control/containment is provided.A soils and engineering evaluation would be conducted to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.The administering agencies would incorporate the treatment of the runoff from developed areas into facility design plans to reduce pollutants reaching waterways wherever feasible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under the preferred alternative, minor adverse impacts are expected to water resources in the areas that are proposed to be developed with visitor centers and expanded campgrounds, including reduced water quality, potential flooding and potential reduced flows from water extraction.The overall impacts on water quality of the preferred alternative would be minor provided appropriate mitigation measures are employed. The most emphasis should be placed on the construction of new facilities (water quality and quantity impacts) and on the restoration of degraded trails in the low intensity areas (water quality improvements). The overall areas that are proposed for development with facilities are small compared to the overall watershed and therefore are expected to only provide minimal additional impacts compared to existing conditions. The following mitigation measures, in addition to those described under the no action alternative, would further reduce the impacts associated with the preferred alternative.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens to groundwater or surface water. A soils and engineering evaluation would be conducted by a qualified geologist to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades and installations.If on-site surface or groundwater will be used as a potable water source for new camp facilities, the administering agencies would study sources of drinking water for camps to avoid the over-extraction of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preservation alternative would have the most beneficial effect on the water resources. By placing more emphasis on the preservation of natural systems and by reducing the high-impact areas, the likely pollutant and physical impacts from this alternative are reduced. Moderate impacts from proposed facilities such as the visitor center and increased trailhead parking could adversely affect the water quality of the water resources. Mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative and below would decrease adverse impacts to a minor level:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Restroom facilities would be planned to minimize the delivery of pathogens to groundwater and surface water. A soils and engineering evaluation would be conducted by qualified engineers to support the location and design of all septic system repairs, upgrades, and installations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overall, the education alternative would have a minor adverse impact on the water resources of the area, provided appropriate mitigation measures are employed and maintained. There might be some moderate beneficial effects of the educational proposal by reducing visitor numbers to parts of the recreation area, and by closing and restoring some tracks in the area. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action and preferred alternatives would decrease these impacts to minor intensities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overall, the recreation alternative would potentially provide the most adverse impacts on the recreation area, compared with the other alternatives. These however, if well managed, could be reduced through mitigation so that the health of the waterways is not seriously impacted and impacts are reduced to minor. Mitigation measures for the recreation alternative are discussed under the no action and preferred alternatives.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Natural Resources (cont'd)				
<p>Flood Plains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The no action alternative could result in potentially moderate long-term impacts to flood plains related to the Leo Carrillo State Park Visitor Center. The designation of high intensity use that encompasses the Arroyo Sequit stream flood plain could also result in adverse impacts. Mitigation measures could reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.<ol style="list-style-type: none">During siting of structures and use areas for proposed facilities in the vicinity of a flood plain, an engineering evaluation would be conducted by a qualified engineer to identify the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. Unless infeasible, structures and use areas would be located outside the flood plain boundaries.Facilities and trails within the 100-year flood plain would be closed 24 hours prior to a predicted 50-year, 24-hour storm event.Signage would be provided at the flood plain boundary on trails and access roads alerting park users that they are about to enter an area prone to flooding during wet weather conditions.The preferred alternative could result in potentially moderate adverse long-term impacts related to the above facilities and the designation of high intensity use that encompasses the Malibu and Calleguas Creek and Arroyo Sequit stream flood plains. Moderate beneficial effects would result from changing current high and medium intensity use areas to low in the area of the Malibu and Calleguas Creek flood plains. The actual intensity of adverse impacts cannot be determined until the specific facility locations are determined. Mitigation measures, as discussed under the no action alternative, would reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.The preservation alternative could result in potentially moderate adverse long-term impacts related to the above facilities and the designation of high intensity use that encompasses the Malibu and Calleguas Creek flood plains, and the Arroyo Sequit stream flood plain. Moderate beneficial effects would result from changing current high and medium intensity use areas to low in the area of the Malibu and Calleguas Creek and Arroyo Sequit stream flood plains. The actual intensity of adverse impacts cannot be determined until the specific facility locations are determined. Mitigation measures, as discussed under the no action alternative, would reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.The education alternative could result in potentially moderate adverse long-term impacts related to the above facilities and the designation of high intensity use that encompasses the Calleguas and Malibu Creek and Arroyo Sequit stream flood plains. Moderate beneficial effects would result from changing current high and medium intensity use areas to low in the area of the Calleguas and Malibu Creek and Arroyo Sequit stream flood plains. The actual intensity of adverse impacts cannot be determined until the specific facility locations are determined. The mitigation measures discussed in the no action alternative would reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.The recreation alternative could result in potentially moderate adverse long-term impacts related to the above facilities and the designation of high intensity use that encompasses the flood plains. Moderate adverse impacts would result from changing current low and medium intensity use areas to high in the area of the Calleguas Creek flood plains.The actual intensity of adverse impacts cannot be determined until the specific facility locations are determined. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce the adverse impacts related to flood plains to minor.			
<p>Biological Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moderate to minor potential impacts on common plant communities and vegetation are expected from proposed facilities development, including the removal and disturbance of vegetation through construction activities, such as cut and fill, grading, and paving. Minor to negligible impacts on sensitive plants species and wetlands would be expected because facilities will be developed in areas that were previously disturbed. Negligible to major indirect effects would include invasion by exotic plant species into newly disturbed areas and the elimination or alteration of some wetlands and riparian vegetation in streambeds. A variety of edge effects, such as noise and lighting disturbances to wildlife and losses of vegetation from foot traffic, could be expected within an interface zone of existing and future facilities having relatively high human usage. Negligible to major adverse impacts on vegetation could also result from fuel management, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, and trail maintenance.Beneficial effects of the no action alternative include plans to close, reroute and revegetate trails in or near sensitive resources, and to remove or restore some roads to a natural condition, or reconfigure them to low impact trails. This would avoid or reduce the risk and intensity of potential impacts on sensitive species near these installations to a minor level.Direct and indirect adverse impacts on native vegetation in the preferred alternative would be similar to the education and preservation alternatives. A variety of edge effects, such as noise and lighting disturbances to wildlife and losses of vegetation from foot traffic, could be expected within a zone of existing and future facilities having relatively high human usage. The width of such edge effects will be analyzed in the documentation prepared for each project. Moderate adverse impacts on native vegetation would result from requirements of fuel management zones around developed structures. Impacts from fuel management and facility development in the preferred alternative would be moderately higher than in the no action alternative.Beneficial effects of the preferred alternative include rerouting and revegetating trails in or near sensitive resources and reconfiguring roads.About 80 percent of the SMMNRA area would be designated as low intensity areas where visitor access to sensitive resources would be neither facilitated nor encouraged. The low intensity areas would be generally surrounded by moderate intensity areas, which would act as buffers between the low intensity areas and the higher use areas. Typical edge effects would be less for the preferred alternative compared to the no action alternative.The preferred alternative includes the provision of proposed boundary changes and future studies to create additional resource protection along the northcentral borders of the park, and to determine recommended boundary adjustments north of Cheeseboro/Palo Comado Canyons. Such boundary changes would potentially provide additional protection to vegetation in the linkages within Ventura County. The no action alternative does not include this provision.Because the majority of the lands within the SMMNRA would be designated for low intensity use, impacts on biological resources throughout the recreation area would be expected to be minor and reduced from levels expected in the no action and other alternatives. Potential impacts due to facility siting and impacts to sensitive species could still range from negligible to major, however. The elimination of camping in the recreation area would greatly reduce the risk of fires, and their resultant impacts, in the moderate and low intensity areas. Implementation of the preservation alternative would greatly enhance the existence and connectivity of undisturbed habitats in the SMMNRA by creating very large expanses of open space, with a nearly continuous connection along the entire east/west axis of the recreation area, all designated as a low intensity area. The mitigation measures discussed for the no action and preferred alternatives would reduce adverse impacts to biological resources and wetlands to minor.In contrast to the no action alternative, the education alternative would result in a net gain of wetland and other native vegetation acreage, as recommended boundary changes were implemented. Because the majority of the lands within the SMMNRA would be designated for low intensity use, impacts on biological resources and wetlands throughout the recreation area would be reduced from levels expected in the no action alternative but would still range from negligible to major, depending on the extent and sensitivity of species impacted. The increase in lands designated as low intensity areas and the elimination of camping in a larger portion of the recreation area would greatly reduce the risk of fires, and their resultant impacts in the moderate and low intensity areas.Facilities development would have direct, localized adverse impacts on some wildlife species, especially those that are adapted to use of disturbed habitats. There is little potential for decreases in the habitat available for endangered, threatened, rare or sensitive species of wildlife in this alternative. Impacts on wildlife from facility development in this alternative are negligible to minor, similar to the no action alternative. With the rehabilitation of existing recreation area developments, impacts on the acreage of habitat available for wildlife, in balance, should be beneficial. Visitor uses, such as horseback riding and mountain biking, would be mostly eliminated from low intensity areas in this alternative. This would be a moderate long-term beneficial effects on biological resources and wetlands.Proposed facilities development in the recreation alternative would have negligible to major direct impacts on vegetation. Adverse impacts of these development activities could include the removal and disturbance of native vegetation through construction activities, such as cut and fill, grading, and paving. Removal of vegetation by surface-disturbing activities could also result in increased soil erosion (see soils and geology) that can, in turn, adversely affect off-site vegetation and increase siltation in downstream watercourses. Resulting negligible to major adverse effects would include invasion by exotic plant species into disturbed areas and the elimination or alteration of riparian vegetation in streambeds.Negligible to major adverse impacts on natural vegetation could also result from fire management, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, and trail maintenance. Visitor uses, such as camping, could also result in soil erosion and disturbance or removal of vegetation. An increase in unplanned fires, and their resultant impacts, resulting from increased visitor use would likely occur. Typical edge effects are expected to be substantially greater for the recreation alternative compared to the no action alternative.			



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Natural Resources (cont'd)					
Biological Resources (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor to negligible direct impacts on wildlife would be expected from facilities development. Direct effects would generally be localized on wildlife species. Visitor uses, such as hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking, could have both direct and indirect, adverse effects on wetlands and all classes of wildlife especially if these uses occur in wildlife corridors and linkages. Proposed facilities development could have potentially major direct impacts on habitat connectivity if movement corridors cannot be avoided. Mitigation through revegetation and avoidance would reduce each of these impacts to minor or negligible levels.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Undisturbed native vegetation would be avoided when new facilities are sited.All grading and construction plans would be reviewed prior to approval by qualified administering agency technical staff.Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be recontoured and revegetated with appropriate native plant species by a qualified biologist, and appropriate fuel management zones would be maintained around developed structures.Erosion control measures would be considered and implemented for surface disturbing activities, such as construction or trail maintenance.Pre-project surveys for sensitive species would be conducted prior to project implementation. Wetland delineation would also be conducted as appropriate.The administering agencies would consult with the USFWS, ACOE (for wetlands) and/or CDFG as appropriate during the detailed planning phase of a project, if any listed species or its habitat might be affected during a proposed action.Surface disturbing activities in or in close proximity to, sensitive vegetative resources (e.g., wetlands, listed species habitat) would be monitored during construction by a qualified biologist.Best management practices would be implemented during construction.Construction monitoring would be provided by a qualified biologist in areas supporting sensitive wildlife resources.The administering agencies would implement projects that would avoid wetlands, other sensitive habitats and habitat linkage areas through careful project siting.A qualified biologist within the administering agencies would evaluate all proposed actions for their affects on habitats and on habitat connectivity to avoid further habitat fragmentation.New developments would be excluded from existing wildlife corridors, or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, to ensure the continued exchange of genes and individuals between wildlife populations within and adjacent to the SMMNRA.Degraded habitats within conserved linkage areas would be restored where feasible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilities development would have negligible to minor direct, localized impacts on some wildlife species, especially those that are adapted to use of disturbed habitats. There is little potential for decreases in the habitat available for endangered, threatened, rare or sensitive species of wildlife in this alternative. Impacts from facility development under this alternative would be higher than those of the no action alternative and the highest of all alternatives. Visitor uses, such as hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking would have direct and indirect, adverse effects on all classes of wildlife and wetlands. Impacts from visitor uses under in the preferred alternative would be less than in those of the no action alternative. Implementation of the preferred alternative would enhance the connectivity of undisturbed habitats in the SMMNRA by creating very large expanses of open space. Connectivity of habitat and movement corridors would be enhanced by the increase in designated low intensity areas, in comparison with the no action alternative. Further, the potential addition of lands on the western and northern boundaries of the park would increase the amount of conservation and connectivity of habitats in those areas.In general, mitigation measures would be effective in avoiding or minimizing loss of natural vegetation, and permanent loss in the preservation areas would be minor as result of the preferred alternative. Because the majority of the lands within the SMMNRA would be designated for low intensity use, impacts on biological resources throughout the park would be reduced from levels expected in the no action alternative. The following mitigation measures, in addition to those described under the no action alternative, would further reduce these impacts.<ol style="list-style-type: none">Fire clearance zones would be incorporated into the planning of developments.Educational efforts, such as posting fire hazard signs, would be effective in reducing the likelihood of visitor caused fires, and their resultant impacts.If vegetation is lost or disturbed from any visitor-related activity, the area would be rehabilitated or revegetated with species from an appropriate native plant palate from local seed/plant sources.Habitat connectivity would be maintained through the implementation of sufficiently wide (greater than 400 feet) habitat linkages between major blocks of habitat.The feasibility of retrofitting wildlife underpasses where primary roads intersect with wildlife movement areas within the park would be considered in the NEPA/CEQA documentation prepared for projects that may affect habitat linkages within their sphere of influence.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of the education alternative would greatly enhance the existence and connectivity of undisturbed habitats in the SMMNRA. The scenic corridors would be expanded into the interior of the low intensity areas, including Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Malibu Canyon Road, Kanan Dume Road, and Decker Road. This expansion would increase the risk of fire in the eastern three fourths of the SMMNRA. The education alternative, which includes recommended boundary changes and land transfer from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior, would increase the connectivity of habitats along the northern border of the current recreation area boundaries, from Hidden Valley, eastward to the Cheeseboro/Palo Comado Canyons area, and along the entire western edge of the current SMMNRA boundaries, including Mugu Lagoon. The mitigation measures discussed in the no action and preferred alternatives would reduce adverse impacts to biological resources and wetlands to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilities development would have direct, localized impacts on some wildlife species. There is the potential for decreases in the available habitat for endangered, threatened, rare or sensitive species of wildlife if vegetation and wildlife habitats are committed to permanent development. Typical edge effects would be expected in habitats directly adjacent to developed areas. The recreation alternative would increase the spatial extent of visitor uses, such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking, which could have direct and indirect, adverse effects on wildlife. Of particular concern is wildlife access to water sources. Adverse human-wildlife interactions are likely to be more frequent with the recreation alternative compared to the no action alternative and could result in moderate to major impacts.As with vegetation, proposed facilities development could have major direct impacts on habitat connectivity. Any loss, disturbance, or degradation of vegetation in habitat linkages and wildlife movement corridors would also have an adverse impact on an area's value as habitat.No beneficial effects on biological resources are anticipated for the recreation alternative.In general, the mitigation measures discussed under the no action and preferred alternatives would be effective in avoiding or minimizing loss of vegetation and reducing impacts to minor. Permanent loss of currently vegetated natural areas would be similar to or greater than the no action alternative. Long-term health of vegetation on privately held land would partially depend upon local enforcement of land use and building permits by other local agencies, such as within the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Areas that are not within the jurisdiction of the SMMNRA.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Natural Resources (cont'd)					
Paleontology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed facility developments could affect previously undisturbed sediments possessing moderate to high paleontologic sensitivity, resulting in moderate adverse impacts to paleontologic resources. Increased visitor use would also adversely affect paleontologic resources through unauthorized collection and consequent loss of the scientific and educational potential of those resources. This impact would be minor. The following mitigation measures would reduce the impacts on paleontological resources to minor.<ol style="list-style-type: none">When planning new facilities, modified facilities and fuel management that requires grading, a qualified professional would determine the paleontologic sensitivity of affected sediments.If excavation occurs in sediments that have high to moderate paleontologic sensitivity, then the administering agencies would hire a qualified paleontologic monitor during excavation.If fossils were discovered during grading or construction, these activities would halt in the immediate vicinity of the find until the fossils have been removed in a scientifically controlled fashion by a qualified paleontologist.The administering agencies would implement public education regarding the scientific and educational importance of fossils and promote awareness of enforcement of California State and NPS non-collection policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under the preferred alternative, impacts to paleontologic resources would result from grading related to facility development, fuel management and trail development. Moderate adverse short-term impacts to paleontologic resources could result from the disturbance of sediments during construction activities. Unauthorized collection of fossils could result in loss of the scientific and educational potential of those specimens, and would constitute a minor adverse, long-term impact. The mitigation measures discussed in the no action alternative discussion would reduce impacts to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preservation alternative would result in less impact to paleontologic resources compared to any of the other alternatives. Moderate adverse short-term impacts to sediments possessing moderate to high paleontologic sensitivity is nevertheless expected from construction excavations, fuel management, fire suppression operations, rerouting and revegetating trails, and reconfiguring roads. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative are recommended to reduce adverse impacts to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moderate short-term impacts to paleontologic resources would be much the same under the education alternative as the preferred alternative. Most of the facilities would be placed in previously disturbed areas, effectively reducing the level of impacts. Enhancement of facilities associated with the scenic corridors would result in direct minor and moderate adverse impacts to paleontologic resources. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce adverse impacts to minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The level of dispersed recreational activities within the SMMNRA would be greater under the recreation alternative than under any alternative. Long-term moderate adverse impacts to paleontologic resources would result from an increased number of trails and trail use. Moderate impacts would be evident in the erosion of sediments of moderate to high paleontologic potential, an increase in the frequency of unauthorized collection of fossils, fire management or suppression operations, construction of new facilities, and the decommissioning of other facilities. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce impacts to minor.
Cultural Resources					
Archeological Resources, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes and Ethnography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The no action alternative would have impacts on cultural resources. This is largely due the designation of 60 percent of the SMMNRA lands as moderate use and 10 percent as high use. As a result, only 30 percent would have a low intensity designation, the classification that offers the most protection to historic properties. A potentially high number of cultural resources would be at risk by project impacts and the potential for unintended damage without mitigation would be high. With mitigation, these negligible to moderate impacts would be further reduced.<ol style="list-style-type: none">The interpretive/educational outreach of SMMNRA, which includes conducting programs for school children, would be enhanced as funding allows.To ensure that adequate consideration and protection are accorded archeological resources, record searches and, where appropriate, archeological surveys would precede all ground disturbing activities on recreation area lands. Archeological and Native American Indian monitoring would occur by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian representative where ground disturbance is expected in the vicinity of known or suspected cultural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preferred alternative offers a very high level of protection to historic properties, reserving 80 percent of lands for low intensity uses, 15 percent for moderate, and 5 percent for high. This is comparable to the preservation alternative, slightly higher than the education alternative, and substantially higher than the no action or recreation alternatives. Component actions are somewhat more intensive than the no action and preservation alternatives, but reduced by comparison to the education and recreation alternatives. As a consequence, there would be a notable decrease in the potential number of cultural resources that would be affected by project impacts and required mitigation. The potential for unintended damage without mitigation would also decrease. Impacts to cultural resources from the preferred alternative would be minor with the implementation of the mitigation measures described below.<ol style="list-style-type: none">A cultural resources inventory would be completed to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area.Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would accompany any ground-disturbing activities. If unknown resources were identified at this time, construction would be halted until the significance of the find is determined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preservation alternative offers a high level of protection to historic properties, given this alternative proposes the fewest facilities and that 80 percent of the lands are designated low intensity, 15 percent moderate intensity, and 5 percent high intensity. In addition, component actions under this alternative are largely designed to minimize impacts. As a result, there would be a notable decrease in the potential number of cultural resources that would be affected by project activities and mitigation. The potential for unintended damage without mitigation would also decrease with this alternative. Adverse impacts would be reduced to negligible with the mitigation discussed in the analysis of impacts section.<ol style="list-style-type: none">All construction or revegetation projects involving ground disturbance would be preceded by a cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist.Concerned Native American Indian groups would be consulted regarding potential impact to cultural landscapes of traditional significance and would assist in developing appropriate mitigation measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The education alternative offers a fairly high level of protection to historic properties, providing for a designation of 75 percent of lands as low intensity, 20 percent as moderate intensity, and 5 percent as high intensity. The potential for cultural resources to be at risk by project impacts and required mitigation would be somewhat less than at the present level, given the high percentage of lands designated for low intensity use, although negligible to major adverse impacts from component actions would likely occur. These adverse impacts would be reduced to negligible levels with the following mitigation:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist would precede all trail construction.In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the administering agencies would consult with the SHPO and the ACHP prior to the implementation of any of the proposed actions (e.g., new facilities, facility enhancements, campgrounds, etc.) that might affect cultural resources. The administering agencies would consult with concerned Native American Indian groups to assist in developing measures to ensure that this program is developed in a manner consistent with respect for Native American Indian beliefs, traditions, and other cultural values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The recreation alternative offers a low level of protection for historic properties, reserving only 10 percent of the lands for low intensity use and 80 percent as moderate intensity, with the remaining 10 percent for high intensity. Component actions are also the most intensive in the moderate use area, likely leading to increased impacts in the zone. Under the recreation alternative, there would be a notable increase in the potential number of cultural resources that would be affected by project impacts and required mitigation. The potential for unintended damage would also increase. Impacts to cultural resources from the recreation alternative would be minor with the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed below:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A monitoring program that would assess the rate and nature of impacts to cultural resources in the vicinity of trails and other high intensity use areas would be established.The administering agencies would consult with the SHPO and the ACHP prior to the implementation of any of the proposed component actions. Because multiple uses have the potential to accelerate degradation of cultural resources on all trails, all trails would be subject to cultural resources investigations.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE	
Cultural Resources (cont’d)					
<p>Archeological Resources, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes and Ethnography (cont’d)</p>	<p>3. All preservation and rehabilitation efforts, as well as daily, cyclical, and seasonal maintenance, would continue to be conducted in accordance with the National Park Service’s Management Policies (1988) and Cultural Resource Management Guidelines (1996), and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995).</p> <p>4. Historic architectural studies and plans for modification would be developed by qualified archeologists to reduce damage to the historic integrity of structures and ensure the highest levels of compatibility possible.</p> <p>5. Actions undertaken to minimize erosion along historic roads and trails would be implemented in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for the treatment of Historic Properties (1995) and would preserve the integrity of these cultural resources.</p> <p>6. The administering agencies shall continue to inventory cultural resources in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470).</p> <p>7. A cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and assessment program conducted by a qualified archeologist would precede all trail construction.</p> <p>8. Native American Indian groups would be consulted to determine appropriate mitigation measures regarding potential impacts to cultural landscapes and places of traditional or sacred significance.</p> <p>9. To the extent feasible, trails would be constructed to avoid or minimize impacts to the traditional values of such places.</p> <p>10. Trails created by mammal tracking activities that intersect constructed trails would have posted signs educating or restricting use by visitors.</p>	<p>3. To assist with visitor education, the Education Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of Muwu to the cultural history of the area.</p> <p>4. The APE for cultural resources would be defined, a record review conducted, and a pedestrian survey completed.</p> <p>5. Management plans would incorporate measures to reduce or eliminate indirect impacts to cultural resources.</p> <p>6. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Leo Carrillo State Beach property.</p> <p>7. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch, the Gillette Ranch and 415 PCH (Marion Davies Home).</p> <p>8. At the Gillette Ranch and WODOC, monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would accompany any ground-disturbing activities.</p> <p>9. All road improvements would be preceded by a cultural resources investigation conducted by a qualified archeologist, inclusive of inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment.</p>	<p>3. Management plans developed or amended to accommodate overnight uses in the vicinity of historic settlements would be reviewed by the qualified staff for conformance with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations regarding cultural resources.</p> <p>4. A cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, would be completed by a qualified archeologist prior to the finalization of plans associated with the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center, to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian would also accompany any ground-disturbing activities. To assist with visitor education, the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of Muwu to the cultural history of the area.</p> <p>5. A qualified archeologist at the Leo Carrillo State Beach site would conduct an inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment program. If resources were identified, mitigation measures would include avoidance or data recovery.</p> <p>6. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch and the Morrison House property.</p> <p>7. A cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, would be completed by a qualified archeologist prior to the finalization of plans associated with the administration and education center at the Gillette Ranch facility, the WODOC and the Malibu Bluffs visitor center to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area.</p> <p>8. The documentation that would accompany the designation of Mulholland Drive as a scenic corridor would provide information that could be integrated into the management of this resource.</p>	<p>3. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of any property.</p> <p>4. To assist with visitor education, the Mugu Lagoon Visitor Education Center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of Muwu to the cultural history of the area.</p>	<p>3. A cultural resources inventory, including subsurface exploration, would be completed prior to the finalization of plans associated with the Mugu Lagoon Center, to assess the potential to adversely impact archeological deposits in this area. To assist with visitor education, the education center would include information on traditional lifeways and the significance of the settlement of Muwu to the cultural history of the area.</p> <p>4. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA would be required for all construction activities that alter the historic characteristics of the Paramount Ranch and White Oak Farm.</p> <p>5. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the Malibu Bluffs visitor center site would be subject to a cultural resources investigation, including inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment by a qualified archeologist. Monitoring by a qualified archeologist and a Native American Indian representative would accompany any ground-disturbing construction.</p> <p>6. All road improvements would be preceded by a cultural resources investigation by a qualified archeologist, inclusive of inventory, evaluation, and impact assessment, followed by mitigation, if necessary.</p>
<p>Visitor Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under the no action alternative, increased visitor use associated with new facilities may have a moderate adverse long-term impact on some visitors. Impacts on visitor experience are expected to be beneficial overall. The quality and range of visitor experience may gradually decrease over time as cumulative impacts from increased development, population and tourism reduce opportunities for solitude and quiet. Though impacts resulting from increased visitor use would be reduced by the following mitigation measures, these mitigation measures are not likely to change the intensity and severity of the impacts. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Guide visitors to high use areas.Encourage visitor use during less busy times.Limit opportunities for parking outside of designated parking areas and provide adequate parking at, or alternative transportation to, high intensity use areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preferred alternative would maintain the existing range of recreational visitor experiences. Increasing the percentage of low intensity use areas would help ensure that visitors have the opportunity to experience quiet and solitude, as would boundary adjustments to include more undeveloped space. A boat tour along the coast would give visitors the opportunity to view the recreation area from another perspective and learn about marine life. New opportunities would be available through visitor education facilities that would have a moderate beneficial effect on the quality of the visitor’s experience. The beneficial visitor experience effects would be enhanced further by the mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative and below: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Improve existing trails, and create new trails and adequate camping areas in moderate intensity use areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The existing range of recreational visitor experiences would be maintained. Increasing the percentage of low intensity use areas and adjusting boundaries to include more undeveloped space, would help ensure that visitors have the opportunity to experience quiet and solitude. This might result in a major beneficial effect for those that seek that kind of experience. Mitigation measures for reducing impacts related to increased visitor use and restricting activities in areas previously dedicated to moderate intensity uses would reduce the adverse impacts to minor and are described under the no action and preferred alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There would be more destinations for learning about park resources for the visitor in the education alternative. Also, this alternative would offer camping for groups in the park at designated educational facilities. For school groups and some visitors, all the new educational opportunities would positively affect their experience. Approximately 80 percent of the park would be managed as a low intensity area. Mitigation measures for reducing impacts related to increased visitor use and restricting activities in areas previously dedicated to moderate intensity uses would reduce adverse impacts to minor and are the same as those discussed under the no action and preferred alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The existing range of recreational visitor experiences would be maintained. However, visitor services would be increased and improved. A range of educational opportunities would be available. These would be moderate beneficial effects on visitor experience.Opportunities for solitude would be available only in the designated preserve areas, and that would diminish as the population grows and visitors seeking that experience increase, as this alternative does not provide for boundary adjustments. Impacts related to increased visitation could be minimized but would remain moderate to major impacts after mitigation, as described under the no action and preferred alternatives.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Socioeconomics					
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The no action alternative would maintain the present land use and management approach. In addition, no boundary studies would be recommended or undertaken as a result of this alternative. Various moderate and major impacts would occur as a result of implementation of the no action alternative, as described above. These impacts would occur because of inconsistencies in locally designated land uses and NPS prescribed management zones. The following mitigation measures would decrease impacts associated with the no action alternative.<ol style="list-style-type: none">The NPS should work closely with jurisdictions during subsequent general plan and land use development policy amendments to minimize land use designation inconsistencies with prescribed management zones within the SMMNRA.In areas where high use intensity management zones overlap areas designated by local jurisdictions as open space, access should be designed to direct visitor use away from those open space areas designated by local jurisdictions for resource protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This alternative would emphasize the preservation of existing natural environments. Land acquisition would result in less intense use of lands not owned by the administering agencies. Various moderate and major impacts with the preferred alternative would occur due to inconsistencies between NPS prescribed low intensity management zones and local land use plans. These inconsistencies would be considered a major land use impact, and are greater in extent than those expected under the no action alternative. Additionally, inconsistencies between moderate and high intensity management zones would result in moderate to major land use impacts throughout the study area. Minor impacts would occur in scattered areas throughout the SMMNRA due to the potential location of facilities within land currently designated as open space.In general, this alternative would have greater land use impacts associated with residential areas encompassed by low intensity management zones, but these impacts would be somewhat balanced by the corresponding decrease in impacts associated with moderate intensity management zones located in residential areas. Decreases in high intensity management areas would lead to a potential reduction in impacts associated with residential and open space lands, although these impacts would still be considered moderate to major, or negligible to minor, respectively.The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce the expected impacts associated with the preferred alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preservation alternative would increase areas managed for low intensity uses to 80 percent of the total SMMNRA area, while reducing those areas managed for high intensity uses to only 5 percent of the total area, compared to the no action alternative. Many of the same impacts associated with the preferred alternative would also be expected under the preservation alternative, since the NPS designated management zones are identical under both alternatives. Therefore, moderate to major impacts associated with inconsistencies between designated residential and open space and low and moderate use intensity management zones would occur. The impact discussion under the preferred alternative provides a detailed description of each of the land use impacts associated with the preservation alternative.Due to the decrease in the number of proposed facilities included in the preservation alternative compared to the preferred alternative, reduced land use impacts could be expected to occur within the specific facility locations, depending on the actual sites selected for facility construction. Negligible to minor or moderate to major impacts would still occur due to inconsistencies between designated open space and residential areas, respectively, and the high intensity management zones in which facilities would be located.Potential moderate to major impacts associated with boundary studies under the preservation alternative are potentially greater under the preservation alternative as compared to both the no action and preferred alternatives. This increase is due, in part, to the larger potential expansion of the SMMNRA boundary to the north of Las Virgenes and Cheeseboro Canyons and into the Conejo Valley, located in Ventura County.The mitigation measures discussed in under the no action alternative would reduce the expected impacts associated with the preservation alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The education alternative is similar to the preferred and preservation alternatives, with slight shifts of low use intensity management zones to moderate use intensity zones. Many of the same impacts associated with the preferred and preservation alternatives would also be expected under the education alternative, since the NPS designated management zones are only slightly different under each alternative. The extent of the impacts would vary slightly, with greater areas of inconsistency between moderate use management zones and residential designations and correspondingly less areas with inconsistencies between low use intensity management zones and locally designated residential land. Moderate to major impacts associated with inconsistencies between designated residential and open space and low, moderate, and high use intensity management zones would occur.Potential impacts associated with boundary studies under the education alternative would be similar to those identified with the preferred alternative. Potential inconsistencies in locally designated land uses compared to NPS prescribed management zones would be potentially major, and greater than the no action alternative.In general, while the general land use impacts would remain similar to those described under the preferred and preservation alternatives, slight shifts in moderate to major impacts would be expected under the education alternative due to the difference in area dedicated to low use intensity management.Mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce the expected impacts associated with the education alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The recreation alternative would promote expansion of recreational opportunities through new recreation area development on lands previously disturbed and of low environmental sensitivity and habitat value. Improvements proposed in moderate and high intensity areas would change the undeveloped character of portions of the SMMNRA.The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would reduce land use impacts associated with the recreation alternative.
Population, Housing, and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This alternative would not result in a change in population or housing within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. The number of jobs created to staff new facilities would be extremely small within the SMMNRA and surrounding region relative to regional employment. No mitigation measures are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preferred alternative would not result in a change in population or housing within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. In addition, additional facility development would contribute minimal employment opportunity on a regional basis. No mitigation measures are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This alternative would not result in a change in population or housing within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. The number of jobs created to staff new facilities would be minimal within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. No mitigation measures are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This alternative would not result in a change in population or housing within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. The number of jobs created to staff new facilities would be minimal within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. No mitigation measures are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The recreation alternative would not result in a change in population or housing within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. The number of jobs created to staff new facilities would be minimal within the SMMNRA or surrounding region. No mitigation measures are required.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	PRESERVATION ALTERNATIVE	EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE	RECREATION ALTERNATIVE
Socioeconomics (cont'd)					
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Traffic volumes on the roads within and near the SMMNRA will continue to increase due to growth in the surrounding communities. Traffic congestion will increase accordingly at critical intersections and on the high volume corridors. Topanga Canyon Road, Malibu Canyon Road, Kanan Dume Road, and the PCH from Malibu east will experience the greatest amounts of traffic congestion and other related problems. All other roads within the SMMNRA will experience increased volumes over time, but will continue to operate effectively and without unacceptable levels of traffic congestion.It is not within the ability of the NPS to control or restrict growth in the surrounding communities. Mitigation would include the promotion and development of transit operations and ridesharing programs, which would help reduce the number of vehicles using the commuter corridors through the SMMNRA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The modifications proposed in the various action alternatives will only generate very small traffic volume increases. These slight increases will not create measurable amounts of traffic congestion or other related traffic impacts.It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The modifications proposed in the various action alternatives will only generate very small traffic volume increases. These slight increases will not create measurable amounts of traffic congestion or other related traffic impacts.It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The modifications proposed in the various action alternatives will only generate very small traffic volume increases. These slight increases will not create measurable amounts of traffic congestion or other related traffic impacts.It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The modifications proposed in the various action alternatives will only generate very small traffic volume increases. These slight increases will not create measurable amounts of traffic congestion or other related traffic impacts.It may be desirable at some proposed visitor use sites to provide a designated left turn lane on the adjacent roadway to minimize traffic conflicts and make site access easier.
Public Services and Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The no action alternative would have only negligible impacts on public services and utilities due to existing available capacity at local suppliers. The following mitigation measures would further decrease those impacts:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Fire awareness should be increased for park visitors through the use of signage and public information programs.The onsite storage of combustible and flammable materials should be limited.The NPS should coordinate with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Sheriff's Department to ensure adequate police protection services for the proposed management areas and facilities.New facilities should provide additional on-site water supply/storage as necessary to reduce pressure on water suppliers and to increase the reliability of facility water supply.Wastewater disposal systems should be planned and designed for each proposed facility at the time it is proposed to ensure adequate wastewater capacity.The location of the nearest solid waste facility with sufficient capacity to accommodate the required additional waste flow should be identified by the administering agencies during facility planning stages. The availability of solid waste capacity should be confirmed for each facility before construction.Energy consumption on parklands should be minimized.The availability of energy supply from local providers should be confirmed by the administering agencies prior to facility implementation. If service is questionable, onsite power should be considered using alternative sources of energy, including solar power or individual generators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The preferred alternative would result in potentially minor impacts to fire and police protection services. Negligible impacts to water, wastewater, solid waste and energy would also occur. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would further reduce the level of impacts associated with the preferred alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Impacts under the preservation alternative would be negligible to fire and police protection services, as well as water wastewater supply waste management and energy. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would further reduce the level of impacts associated with the preservation alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Impacts under the education alternative would be similar to those discussed for the preferred alternative. Minor impacts to fire and police protection services could be mitigated to negligible levels. Negligible impacts to water, wastewater, waste management and energy would also occur. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would further reduce the level of impacts associated with the education alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Impacts under the recreation alternative would be similar to those discussed for the preferred alternative. Minor impacts to fire and police protection services could be mitigated to negligible levels. Negligible impacts to water, wastewater, waste management and energy would also occur. The mitigation measures discussed under the no action alternative would further reduce the level of impacts associated with the recreation alternative.